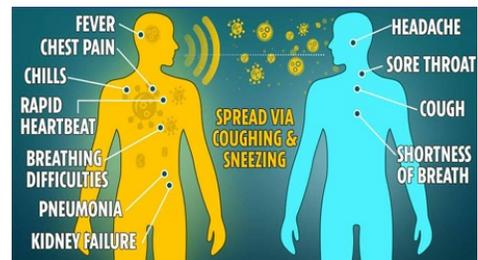




Maine Health Care Association



[Visit our COVID-19 Page Here](#)

Dear Member,

Last night, the United States Senate passed and the President signed into law H.R. 6201, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act. Within our sector, the bill provides temporary 6.2% increase in Federal Medical Assistance Percentages (FMAP). This will allow for state Medicaid programs to have the funding needed to ensure that the most vulnerable patients and residents have continued quality care during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This bill also includes other provisions like free coronavirus testing, expanded food and unemployment assistance and paid sick leave. There are numerous questions about how these additional provisions will be implemented and what they mean for employers. AHCA/NCAL is working on finding answers to those questions and will provide a summary to members as soon as possible.

### **Maximus Assessment Information**

Due to the rapidly changing landscape in nursing facilities and hospitals last week, Maximus reports it has moved to telephonic assessments for these two service areas and increased their capacity to do so. Please see memo and FAQs from Maximus posted at <https://www.mehca.org/covid>. The FAQs will be updated frequently so members may feel free to contact Karen Mason at OADS at 287-2840 or [Karen.Mason@maine.gov](mailto:Karen.Mason@maine.gov) with questions so that they may capture, answer and add them to this evolving document.

### **New MHCA Worker Exposure Guideline**

Please see latest chart on **Staff Monitoring of COVID19 Exposure and Risk** under MHCA Created Resources at <https://www.mehca.org/covid>.

### **MHCA launches Maine Notes for Seniors**

Today, MHCA launched the *Maine Notes for Seniors* initiative to encourage children in the community to send notes of encouragement, share photos of artwork, or short videos to uplift residents in your homes. MHCA has created an online submission form <https://www.mehca.org/mainenotes4seniors> and we encourage you to share the link on your company and personal social media channels as well. MHCA will compile submissions from the community and send them out via email directly to facility Activity Directors on a regular basis over the coming weeks. We hope this will allow Activity Directors to share these messages of hope and good cheer with residents and have a positive impact during these challenging times. If you have someone you would like to add, please email their name, title, and email address to Ashley Ellis at [aellis@mehca.org](mailto:aellis@mehca.org) and we will be sure they will receive all future *Maine Notes for Seniors* updates. Thank you for all you're doing in these challenging times.

### **Reminder: New MHCA Staffing Decision Trees**

Yesterday, MHCA posted its new set of Staff Decision Making Trees at <https://www.mehca.org/covid>. Please feel free print and share widely.

## AHCA/NCAL Guidance on Therapy Services During COVID-19

This [document](#) provides guidance for therapists on how LTC Facilities (SNFs and ALs) can operationalize federal and state guidance to significantly restrict visitors and non-essential personnel, as well as restrict communal activities inside LTC facilities as part of the effort to prevent COVID-19 from spreading. When deciding if a therapist needs to enter a building (regardless of their being an employee or outside contractor), we advise LTCs to consider the intent of the federal and state guidance in deciding. The intent is to restrict entry of as many people as possible, as each additional person entering increases the risk of COVID-19 entering.

Of course, this also needs to be balanced with trying to meet the needs of the resident. That risk-benefit trade off needs to be made on a case-by-case basis but should incorporate the high morbidity and mortality associated with contracting this virus in the elderly over 80 (estimated at 15-20% or more).

### **Adding staff to the COVID-19 Briefing Distribution List**

If you have staff you would like added to the **MHCA COVID-19 Briefing** distribution list, please email [ngrosso@mehca.org](mailto:ngrosso@mehca.org).

Stay tuned for additional updates tomorrow.

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