



Visit our COVID-19 Page Here

Dear Member:

The Maine CDC updates COVID-19 testing data once each day, Monday through Friday by 12 PM EDT. Because of the number of outside labs that are testing samples from Maine, it is no longer possible to post an accurate count of negative tests. You may access the information here: <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/epi/airborne/coronavirus> The first cases have been diagnosed in Aroostook and Washington Counties as of today, April 3, 2020 at 12:00 PM:

Total Confirmed Cases	432
Total Recovered	111
Total Hospitalized	75
Total Deaths	9

### MHCA interpretation of CMS guidance in the face of PPE Shortage

Currently Maine is functioning at crisis level capacity per the CDC guidance '[Strategies to Optimize the Supply of PPE and Equipment](#)'. In light of the recent [CMS guidance document dated April 2, 2020](#), MHCA would like to remind member facilities that the CDC has provided recommendations on the need to consider crisis capacity strategies during such a shortage and suggests careful consideration to the effectiveness of crisis strategies and the risk for transmission between HCP and patients during such times. Included in the crisis level strategies facilities should:

- Consider using intact PPE that is beyond the manufacturer-designated shelf life for patient care activities.
- Carefully prioritize PPE use for selected care activities. This could include reserving sterile gowns and gloves for urgent sterile patient procedures, such as surgery, and reserving respirators for aerosol-generating procedures and patient care with airborne transmitted disease risks, like tuberculosis, measles, and varicella.
- If no commercial PPE is available, carefully consider if alternative approaches will reduce the risk of HCP exposure and are safe for patient care.
- As PPE becomes available, healthcare facilities should promptly resume standard practices.

As a reminder, MHCA's new tool on best practices for use of PPE during crisis capacity is now available on our website at <https://www.mehca.org/covid> under MHCA created resources. Nursing homes should ensure all staff are using appropriate PPE when they are interacting with patients and residents, to the extent PPE is available.

### Hermon Sign Company pivots to making Face Shields

Last night, MHCA learned that DaVinci Signs, based in Hermon, ME is now making face shields. We reached out to Ande Binan who shared the following:

"We would be more than happy to help out anyway we can. The face shields are a .007mil super clear Melinex polyester film. The face shield is 9.5 x 13" long , with a 27" pull strap. Cost for the shield/strap is **\$2.75 ea**. We can do as many as you like, we have set up production to run small batches of 10, and large batches of 50 or more. Shipping would be separate. We would like to work with POs if that is your regular procedure."

Contact:  
Ande Binan  
21 White Pine Rd Ste. 1  
Hermon, Me 04401  
Ph 207.848.2234  
fax 207.848.8755  
[ande@davincisigns.net](mailto:ande@davincisigns.net)

**Check in with your County EMA**

Earlier today, MHCA sent out a notice that PPE is now being managed at the County EMA level. Please check in with your [County Emergency Management Agency](#) to ensure that your previously submitted requests through your district liaison or regional emergency preparedness coordinator have been communicated to the county EMA. At this time, we cannot be certain your previous request is in the queue for distribution if materials are available.

**FAQs - Alignment of Isolation Waivers, MDS, and Payment Policies**

AHCA has developed a [FAQ document](#) to help providers navigate how the various CDC and CMS COVID-19 guidance and Section 1135 waivers interact with current MDS-RAI coding guidance and payment models in SNFs, specific to situations where it is determined that a resident requires isolation related to the COVID-19 virus. This guidance is intended to provide context to help guide provider decisions and will be updated as necessary as new government policies and guidance are issued.

Thank you for all you do to care for your residents and staff.

Nadine L. Grosso  
Vice President and Director of Communications  
[ngrosso@mehca.org](mailto:ngrosso@mehca.org)