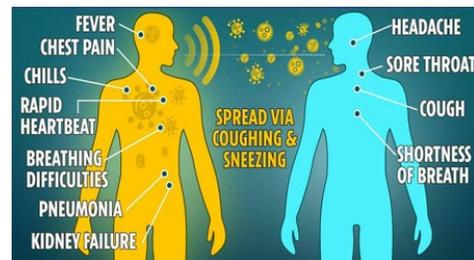




Maine Health Care Association



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

Dear Member:

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

On Monday of this past week, MHCA met with DHHS officials to discuss a proposal that would provide prompt financial relief for long term care facilities, as they face unknown COVID-19 costs. We were pleased that the Department had already recognized that extraordinary circumstance language in the Principles of Reimbursement for nursing homes and residential care facilities will apply to COVID-19.

However, we remained concerned that facilities will have an immediate need for increased funding as staffing, supplies and operating costs quickly escalate. With valuable support from the BerryDunn firm, we presented cost projections to the Department that allow this need to be addressed on a prospective basis. This would be accomplished by a temporary supplemental rate increase to LTC facilities. Facilities would still have the option of pursuing extraordinary circumstance applications for any additional COVID-19 costs not covered by the supplemental payment. In the short term, this plan would avoid administrative burden for both providers and DHHS Audit during a time of crisis.

Last evening, DHHS advised us that they agree with this approach and will be approving immediate supplemental rate increases for nursing homes and residential care facilities. These increases will be retroactive to March 1, 2020 and extend until June 30, 2020. Final figures are still being resolved, but we expect the per resident increase for nursing homes to be approximately \$23 per day and for residential care, approximately \$16 per day.

More details on what will be required of providers will be reported early next week, but we wanted you to be aware that financial relief will soon be available.

REGULATORY RELIEF

MHCA requested State regulatory relief on March 22nd and received the [attached](#) response from the Division of Licensing and Certification late yesterday. We recognize this is not an exhaustive list and details still need to be worked through with State officials, however, we wanted you to have this information as soon as possible.

If there are additional regulatory concerns, please let us know. We continue to address some of the Board of Nursing issues separately, including our request for approval of the national, abbreviated CNA training course.

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

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