



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

Dear Member:

### **K+K Thermoforming making Face Shields**

Face shields are clear plastic, 9-inch shields, with latex free elastic head bands also available. They come 90 pieces to a case. Click [here](#) for pricing and terms. Contact: Keith D. Richards, K+K Thermoforming, 860-383-6478, [kdrichards@kplastic.com](mailto:kdrichards@kplastic.com)

### **MHCA creates two new resources**

Please see MHCA web site for new tools added today as follows:

- [Sample Respiratory Protection Plan](#)
- [Hand Hygiene Competency](#)

### **MHCA updates Press Statement**

MHCA has updated its press statement to transition our messaging from preparedness to containment. In part, it says,

“In facilities where cases exist, additional steps are being taken, such as isolating or co-horting residents who’ve tested positive in private rooms or areas; minimizing the number of interactions among different staff and residents; increased monitoring of staff and residents; providing comfort and encouragement to residents and to the extent possible, increasing transmission-based precautions commensurate with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) supply.”

We note our ongoing concern about the adequacy of PPE and efforts being taken to procure PPE from sources other than government stockpiles. We close with great gratitude and respect for your response during this unprecedented public health crisis.

Visit our web site <https://www.mehca.org/covid> to read the entire statement. As a reminder, MHCA staff is available to assist with media relations. Email [ngrosso@mehca.org](mailto:ngrosso@mehca.org) if interested.

### **Incident Response PART 2 – Reminders of what to do when COVID-19 enters your building**

COVID-19 has forced MHCA member facilities to evaluate their readiness factors as it relates to emergency preparedness especially in the most severe of circumstances. The entire process of assessing a facility's readiness can be established by:

- Defining the authorities (Maine CDC, MEMA) that aide the facilities deployment of necessary steps to ensure the safety of the residents, families and staff members of your home.
- Defining a facility's legal responsibility and role regarding the most extreme steps to ensure such safety.
- Assessing hazards and identifying risks that might require or complicate such as extreme steps as the potential of evacuation of a facility
- Developing strategies for partnering with other healthcare sites to ensure appropriate response and care of residents are met.
- Developing and implementing an evacuation/sheltering plan, operational

- procedures, training programs and drills
- Continual reevaluation of plan and procedures based upon updated situational guidance from the state authorities.

By evaluating information from sources like these, facilities are more likely to identify potential hazards. Every facility should have a method to quickly identify events that will create an immediate threat. As this relates to our current reality of COVID-19, the potential for positive facility spread and outbreak are of highest concern. In some cases, staff may have many days for planning and decision making or in the worst-case scenario have very little time to react. Lack of time to prepare can have a substantial impact on the health of residents and staff. When preparing for the worst:

- Activate your nursing home incident command system
- Determine which residents might be able to go to families if the situation rises to that level of needed action
- Assess
  - Total beds and types of beds needed
  - Available staff to support transferred resident
  - Potential transportation needs based on resident mobility and number
- Organize resident resources
  - Residents' important belongings/equipment
  - Medications, snacks and water for transport period
  - Medical charts
  - Consider personal needs such as glasses, dentures, hearing aids, and valuables
  - Utilize the [NHICS Resident Tracking Form](#)

Remember: Notify families frequently of your facilities planned response to COVID-19. Families feel more at ease when they know how you are reacting to this ever-evolving emergency situation. As always, don't hesitate to reach out to MHCA if you have any additional questions.

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

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