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**Dear Member:**

### **HETL Releases FAQ for Electronic Testing Order and Reporting (eTOR)**

In order to assist facilities with proper submission of samples for nursing home testing plans HETL has released an FAQ document containing guidelines on what and how to make your testing plans successful attached [here](#).

### **Weekly Maine OADS Call Resumes for LTC Providers**

Beginning Wednesday September 30, 2020 from 1:00-2:00pm the Maine Department of Health and Human Services Office of Aging and Disability Services will be providing a bi-weekly opportunity for LTC providers (Residential Care, Assisted Living, Independent Housing with Services, and Nursing Facilities) to receive updates related to COVID-19 from state agencies such as the Maine CDC, DLC and OADS. Providers are asked to submit their questions prior to the meeting via that can be submitted here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7LQPC9Z>.

MHCA encourages all levels of LTC providers to participate in this call by joining the Zoom Meeting at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8632543850>

### **Phase II of Governor Mills' Economic Recovery Grant Program will include assisted living facilities**

When the Governor's Office announced its Economic Recovery Grant Program for nonprofit and for profit businesses and organizations, we were disappointed to find that the program specifically excluded nursing homes and assisted living facilities. The second phase of the program was announced last Friday and we were able to confirm today that applications from assisted living facilities will now be accepted. Nursing homes remain ineligible for the program.

Phase II will make available approximately \$95 million in remaining funds from Phase 1 and expand access to the program by increasing the number of eligible businesses and non-profits. Under Phase II, businesses and non-profits that employ up to 250 people will be eligible for grant rewards. Previously, small businesses and non-profits with up to 50 people were eligible. Additionally, licensed childcare, behavioral health organizations, and assisted living will be eligible in this round. The Department of Economic and Community Development estimates that nearly 3,000 more businesses and non-profit organizations will be eligible for grants as a result of the program's expansion.

The Maine Economic Recovery Grant Program is intended to help sustain the viability of Maine's small businesses and nonprofits - not to replace lost profits - by providing short-term financial relief for businesses and non-profit organizations that incurred business disruptions as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Expanding the size of businesses also expands its scope since some types of businesses typically have more than 50 workers. Applications for Phase II will be accepted Wednesday, September 23, 2020 through

Friday, October 23, 2020, at 11:59 p.m. with grants expected to be awarded in late November.

For additional information about the program, please visit the Department of Economic and Community's [website](#).

### **Now Available: Payment Resource for COVID-19 Testing**

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) last week released information to help states, nursing facilities, and other providers better understand the sources of Medicare and Medicaid coverage and payment for COVID-19 testing. Among the resources is the Coverage and Payment for COVID-19 Testing in Nursing Facilities **flow chart**, which details testing coverage for nursing facility residents. AHCA/NCAL has developed a **summary** of this resource.

### **Maine Division of Licensing continues to work on guidance for visitation**

- As a reminder, the CMS guidance in QSO-20-39-NH is applicable to all federally certified facilities (nursing and ICF/IID). According to Bill Montejo, Director, the Division of Licensing is working with the Maine CDC and the Office of Aging and Disability Services on guidance but is unable to provide a timeframe for the completion of that work as there are several clarifications still pending from CMS on the recent guidance they have issued.

### **Clarification on Staff Testing**

Recently a member facility requested clarification regarding routine staff testing for those individuals that are either not available during the designated testing time period or are newly hired during the rotation of testing. According to Bill Montejo, Director of the Division of Licensing, the position of CMS is: "If staff is not in the building at the time they are supposed to be tested, such as sporadic staff or staff on vacation, then they insert into the testing schedule at the next possible point." This does not mean the next scheduled monthly testing which could have a staff person in go for a 60 day period without testing. CMS would expect the facility to utilize the POC device that CMS has provided, obtain a copy of test results from the employee if they completed testing outside of the facility, or that the facility conducts this staff persons testing at the next practicable opportunity.

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

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