



Visit our COVID-19 Page Here

Dear Member:

#### **Local Leader Appointed to White House Coronavirus Commission**

MHCA congratulates Debra Fournier, Chief Operating Officer of Maine Veteran's Home, for her appointment to the White House's new Coronavirus Commission for Safety and Quality in Nursing Homes. The commission, which includes 25 stakeholders with a wide variety of backgrounds will be tasked with reviewing nursing homes' response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the development of recommendations for new regulations and procedures for future emergency situations. Commission members will meet for the first time next week and then weekly through July. They are to issue a report on Sept. 1 before the panel is dissolved.

#### **NCAL Survey Highlights PPE Needs in Assisted Living**

MHCA thanks our assisted living members who completed NCAL's national PPE survey. The results are in and the survey shows that more than half of assisted living communities have less than a two-week supply of specific PPE and it remains a struggle to find these vital supplies. While more than 70 percent have asked for help from state and local health agencies, many are still forced to reuse PPE or rely on homemade supplies.

To date, assisted living communities nationwide have not received any direct federal funding, PPE shipments or prioritization for testing, although Maine has been fortunate on the testing front. Like nursing homes, residents of assisted living communities are among those most vulnerable to COVID-19, as more than half are above the age of 85. Without adequate PPE, assisted living communities are facing an uphill battle in preventing COVID-19 outbreaks.

According to Scott Tittle, NCAL Executive Director, "Since the beginning of the pandemic, assisted living providers have faced similar challenges as other health care and congregate settings in acquiring this equipment, due to its high demand and world supply chain issues. As many states reinstitute public gatherings as well as plan guidance on 'opening up' long term care facilities to visitation, this is a critical time period to ensure our assisted living communities are equipped to keep COVID-19 out of their buildings. Our organization has requested \$5 billion in emergency funding from the Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) to help pay for PPE supplies as well as expanded testing and additional staffing."

Here is a [link](#) for a pdf version of the complete survey.

#### **Health Risks Increase as Temperatures Rise**

COVID-19 amplifies health risks for many people in hot weather. To reduce heat-related illness and loss of life authorities and communities nationwide should prepare for hot weather and heatwaves — in addition to managing COVID-19 — before extreme heat strikes. OADS shared the following materials today, a timely move as we head into a very warm weekend in Maine:

- [technical-brief-COVID-and-heat.pdf](#)
- [Checklist-COVID-heat.pdf](#)

#### **AHCA/NCAL Announces October Dates for Virtual Convention**

Join your long term and post-acute care colleagues from across the country for our first-ever virtual AHCA/NCAL Convention & Expo on **October 8-31, 2020**.

The [71st AHCA/NCAL Convention & Expo](#) will meet these tough times head on, taking a

complete look at what has happened over the past year, some of the lessons learned, where there is room to improve and how, and what we can work towards in the future. The event promises to be memorable and meaningful.

This year's convention offers you 24 days of on-demand content. And you can connect in real time with Get-Together Thursdays—three days of live-stream sessions on October 8, 15, and 22.

You'll still get all the things you love about convention:

- Inspiring speakers
- Education sessions covering a wide range of topics
- Opportunities to earn CEs and NABs – more than ever before!
- Networking and exchanging of ideas
- Quality Awards and recognition

**There's even an Expo Hall!** See the latest business solutions and talk to company representatives in real time. AHCA/NCAL's industry partners remain committed to you and your needs and stand ready to provide you with answers.

**Registration opens in early July.**

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

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