



Visit our COVID-19 Page Here

Dear Member:

### **Mother's Day marks beginning of National Skilled Nursing Care Week**

MHCA wishes a Happy Mother's Day to our members, residents, families and staff. We thank you for your tireless efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic. We look forward to also celebrating National Skilled Nursing Care Week, May 10 to 16, 2020, featuring the theme of **"Sharing Our Wisdom."**

This year, while it is more important than ever to celebrate NSNCW and recognize the staff and residents in our skilled nursing facilities, it is a challenge to figure out how best to do so. Current social distancing rules and the inability of friends and family to enter the buildings has changed much of the day to day life of the staff and the residents, and no one knows how long this is going to continue. One thing is certain, though, and that is that staff are playing a critical role in caring for residents and saving lives, and that deserves to be honored and celebrated.

NSNCW is also a time to recognize your residents, their special relationships with staff, and the family members that all make up your unique and wonderful communities. Keeping your community connected through the use of technology and social media is a great way to prevent social isolation and lift everyone's spirits. We encourage you to explore the following resources for ideas and suggestions on how you might celebrate despite the limitations of social distancing. Check out [Suggested Activities](#) for ideas and suggestions on ways you can celebrate NSNCW. Be sure to connect with MHCA on FB too so we can share the great work you're doing during this week, and always.

### **MHCA Launches Assisted Living Specific COVID-19 Resource Page**

As reported yesterday, MHCA recognizes the extreme focus that has been placed on skilled nursing facilities and the ever-changing regulations and guidance from CDC; however, we also recognize the extreme pressure our assisted living members are facing. In an effort to have a centralized location for resources and guidance we have created an Assisted Living resource link off the MHCA COVID-19 page, <https://www.mehca.org/alcovidresources>. From this link you will find:

- [Preventing COVID-19 in Assisted Livings](#)
- [CDC Guidance for Homecare](#)
- [LTC Respiratory Symptom Tracker](#)
- [Small Group and Solo Activity Ideas](#)
- [CDC Complete Care Plan \(Fillable for Residents\)](#)
- [AL Protection Planning](#)

- [PPE Illustrations for AL](#)

Brookdale Senior Living owns and operates over 800 senior living communities and retirement communities in the United States. They have graciously shared their COVID-19 tools for examples of Assisted Living preparedness including AL resident facing infection prevention campaigns. These can also be found on our new page.

- [Wipe Down Wednesday](#)
- [Assisted Living FAQ](#)
- [Stop and Ask Yourself](#)
- [Assisted Living Infection Control](#)

### **PPE Opportunity through MHCABS GPO Partner**

Our GPO partner Vizient/Provista has potential product opportunity for members. The ASP Global PPE Program (MS9070) offers isolation gowns, masks and face shields. Detailed product and contract information, instructions to order, and necessary forms to access this contract can be found on our web site at [MHCABS GPO Partner Provista/Vizient PPE Opportunity with ASP Global \(05/08/20\)](#). Please note that this is not a guarantee of product as members are subject to product availability by the supplier. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Dianne Chicoine, Director of Business & Information Services Email: [dchicoine@mehca.org](mailto:dchicoine@mehca.org).

### **National PPE Supplier List**

Knowing whether a Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) supplier is reliable is challenging these days with all the pop-up PPE suppliers and scams. To assist members, **AHCA/NCAL has developed a list of [PPE suppliers that have recently served long term care providers](#)**. The list is not an endorsement or seal of approval of any particular PPE supplier, but can be used as a resource when PPE is not available through their ordinary supply chains. Members should keep in mind that PPE demand currently far exceeds PPE supply. Suppliers are facing unprecedented challenges obtaining PPE, so the suppliers on this list may not have PPE at the time they are contacted. These PPE suppliers are doing their best to fill orders as PPE shipments arrive or their PPE is manufactured. If a supplier is out of stock, ask when to check back. Like MHCA's list, the national list will be updated as more PPE suppliers are identified that have successfully delivered PPE supplies to AHCA/NCAL members during the pandemic.

### **CMS Releases Interim Final Rule On COVID-19 Reporting Requirements For SNFs**

CMS has released a [QSO memo](#) addressing the interim final rule requiring skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) to report to National Health care Safety Network (NHSN) on COVID-19, as well as to provide notifications to residents, their representatives, and families. The requirements went into effect today, Friday, May 8, 2020. CMS has also "established two new F-Tags – F884: COVID-19 Reporting to CDC and F885 COVID-19 Reporting to Residents, their Representatives, and Families."

AHCA developed a [detailed summary](#) of the [QSO memo](#) issued by CMS on May 6, 2020, including further information on:

- requirements for notifying residents, representatives, and families of COVID cases,
- NHSN reporting requirements, and
- survey and enforcement of these new requirements.

Both of these documents are also available on MHCA's web site, <https://www.mehca.org/covid>. Although CMS has provided clarification on some aspects of these new requirements in the memo, AHCA continues to communicate with CMS and CDC on several outstanding issues and to advocate for needed flexibility including an extended grace period for NHSN reporting enforcement due to the current delays and backlogs in NHSN enrollment. In addition, MHCA continues to advocate with Maine Division of Licensing to align state rulemaking with federal rule to reduce the burden to our member facilities. MHCA anticipates clarifying guidance from the Maine DLC soon.

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

Nadine L. Gosso  
Vice President and Director of Communications

