



Visit our COVID-19 Page Here

Dear Member:

Updated Nursing Home Testing Policy

In response to the most recent CMS testing guidance for nursing homes ([QSO-20-38-nh](#)) issued on August 26, 2020, MHCA has updated its [sample testing policy](#) previously shared with members to reflect the federal requirements for routine staff testing. In this revised sample policy you will see the updated language in red which reflects the federal requirements. Please feel free to take this sample document and adjust to meet your individual facility's testing plan. NOTE: Individual testing plans are required to be submitted to Maine DHHS via email at COVIDTESTING@maine.gov by SEPTEMBER 15, 2020. In addition, if facilities have met all qualifications to move from one phase to the next and the facility wishes to progress to the next phase of reopening the facility must submit a written request with evidence of compliance to dhrs.info@maine.gov.

ICYMI: Archived Recording of AHCA Webinar on CMS COVID-19 Performance Payment Program

The archived recording of this week's webinar is now ready to view at your convenience. Please note you will need a username and password to access it.

1. Go to <https://educate.ahcancal.org/> and log in using your username and password.
 2. Once the page opens, click on the "View Archived Recording" button on the right hand side of the page. The presentation will open in a new window for you to view and hear the program.
 3. Click on the Handout tab to download your copy of the handouts and other available materials.
- For questions or support, please email educate@ahca.org.

CMS Issues COVID-19 Public Reporting Tip Sheet

On September 8, the Centers of Medicaid Services (CMS) announced the posting of a COVID-19 Public Reporting [Tip Sheet](#). The purpose of the tip sheet is to help providers understand the CMS public reporting strategy for the SNF Quality Reporting Program (QRP) to account for CMS quality data submissions that were optional and excepted from public reporting due to the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE). The impact on CMS' Nursing Home Compare website refreshes is also outlined. This tip sheet serves as a companion document to the SNF COVID-19 PHE [Tip Sheet](#) published in July 2020, which provided practical guidance to address SNF quality data submissions after July 1, 2020, once the temporary SNF QRP exceptions from the COVID-19 PHE ended. SNF staff responsible for SNF QRP reporting are encouraged to review this tip sheet.

AARP Provides Status of Nursing Home Visits Nationwide

Nursing homes and other long-term care facilities in certain states have started to gradually reopen, in many cases adopting outdoor visiting options to help residents reconnect with their loved ones. Others are preparing for the possibility of indoor visitation, guided by strict CDC guidelines to prevent the spread of COVID-19. AARP routinely updates this analysis. To see what other states are presently doing: [AARP-nursing-home-visits-by-state](#)

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

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