

**LeadingAge Michigan
Safe and Calm Webinar Q&A
June 24, 2020**



If you have an attached hospital and your resident is admitted there, are we required to COVID test before returning to us?

All facilities are required to test all new or returning residents during intake and routinely quarantine. They may include any testing within 72 hours of admission. This would apply to any resident no matter which hospital they may have been transferred to. The possibility of developing COVID does not change.

So as of right now EO 2020-108 has not had an update on visiting and mask use in the facility. You mentioned that next week there were expected guidance for visiting but yet Friday is the end of that order.

Yes, the current order will expire on June 26, and we were under the impression that the state would put out new guidance sometime this week before it expires. However, it would not be surprising for the Governor to issue an order before the state identifies its planning or other decisions. We have no idea whether or how the state will consider reopening for congregate care facilities especially since the recent numbers are increasing in some areas.

Do you know the guidance on decontamination of KN95 masks for reuse by UV light? Is this what you are looking for? Results suggest that UVGI could be used to effectively disinfect disposable respirators for reuse, but the maximum number of disinfection cycles will be limited by the respirator model and the UVGI dose required to inactivate the pathogen.

<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/nioshtic-2/20045956.html>

Is there any information/data about asymptomatic residents being at more risk of being transferred to a hub where symptomatic residents are located? We have not seen any research or studies that asymptomatic positive person are more at risk (assuming from further illness) if being housed with symptomatic COVID residents. It is possible that the severity of symptoms could be dose dependent, but transmission precautions in regional hubs or dedicated units should limit exposure. What may be important here is an evaluation of whether a member feels they can adequately serve a positive resident and keep them in their facility without undue risk to other residents.

Do you know if the Governor will factor in how mandated weekly testing may increase case numbers? When looking at risk level for the state, it would be helpful for them to keep looking at percent positive vs total positive. We are unsure of any science supporting the plan, however it was drafted by UM and so we are pretty comfortable with the thought that went into it. We note that there is an evaluation of the proportion of cases in a region as well that is associated with this. It may be that the categories include a broad sense of the regional aspects so that it does not matter. However, we will try to get a chance to discuss this in greater detail with the state.

Our NH Compare Data is incorrect (shows 70 positive employees for week of 5/24). This does not match what was put into MDHHS or NHSN site... any idea on best contact to get this fixed?
NHSN Data concerns should be forwarded to NH_COVID_Data@cms.hhs.gov, and for a list of Frequently Asked Questions, please click [here](#).

Where did MDLARA post the changes that were listed (contractors allowed in, residents allowed but discouraged to go out)? The Updated FAQs on their website (for HFAs/AFCs) and at https://www.leadingagemi.org/resource/resmgr/covid-19/covid-19_cont_/AFC_HFA_FAQ_Final_685300_7_3.pdf

LARA Workgroups on Visitation

Did the phased-in approach allow for outdoor visitation? (for nursing homes)

Outdoor visitation was recommended beginning in phase 1. It would be by appointment only, with COVID negative or asymptomatic residents and with physical distancing. Residents and visitors will always wear masks

What about allowing contractors and beauticians to resume services in the facility for assisted living after June 26?

Currently, non-essential construction work may start if there is a separation of the work area which would not require contractors to work in the area of the facility utilized by residents. For construction or repair that is necessary to maintain the current ongoing operation of the resident area of the facility, contractors should be screened like staff prior to entering the facility. If the construction workers do not meet one of these two criteria, EO-108 would prohibit contractors from entering the resident area of the building and this EO is in effect until June 26 (unless extended further).

Unfortunately we do not have any guidance that can be provided regarding beauticians. Clarification from the Governor's office has been sought a couple of weeks ago however, still no response. It makes more sense to bring in one hairdresser to the facility than to have residents leave the facility and go to various barbers/beauticians which we believe mitigates risk but know there are some that believe this is not an essential service so should not be allowed in the building. As soon as an official response is released, BCHS plans to update their FAQs posted on their website.

It is unknown at this time as to whether or not the restrictions for non-essential staff will be extended.

Advocacy Questions

What is the number of the guidance for the wage increase?

Senate Bill 690 please see the link below to view the bill:

<http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2019-2020/billenrolled/Senate/pdf/2019-SNB-0690.pdf>

Does SB 690 include all licensed nurses, even if they are not direct care on the floor?

The bill is not clear and will be left up to the MDHHS's interpretation once it has passed. Currently the bill reads "direct care workers" means a registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, competency-evaluated nursing assistant, and respiratory therapist.

Does "including payroll taxes" mean that the increase is actually less than \$2 an hour?

All the funding is inclusive of costs to the employer including payroll taxes. This means that you have to take out payroll taxes before the funds are distributed to employees. The actual increase in pay will be less than \$2 an hour.

To Clarify: Even if SB956 passes, if you have a COVID unit set up and could care for your patients, you can still keep them in your SNF?

Yes but your dedicated unit will need to pass inspection and be certified by the department.

What is the period of time the wage adjustment will be in place (duration)?

For Skilled Nursing providers and AAAs the range is July 1, 2020 through September 30, 2020.

Links and Resources

JAGs Article on Connecticut Nursing Homes:

<https://www.newsbreak.com/news/0PPR7Haj/lower-nurse-staffing-levels-linked-to-more-covid-19-cases-in-connecticut-nursing-homes>

Health Affairs Article on Asymptomatic Transmission and Masks

<https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/10.1377/hlthaff.2020.00818>

MDLARA Visitation Workgroup Recommendations

1. [https://www.leadingagemi.org/resource/resmgr/covid-19/covid-19 cont /Under the leadership of Gov.docx](https://www.leadingagemi.org/resource/resmgr/covid-19/covid-19_cont/Under%20the%20leadership%20of%20Gov.docx)
2. [https://www.leadingagemi.org/resource/resmgr/covid-19/covid-19 cont /Addendum I - Low to Moderate.pdf](https://www.leadingagemi.org/resource/resmgr/covid-19/covid-19_cont/Addendum%20I%20-%20Low%20to%20Moderate.pdf)
3. [https://www.leadingagemi.org/resource/resmgr/covid-19/covid-19 cont /Addendum II - Moderate Acuity.pdf](https://www.leadingagemi.org/resource/resmgr/covid-19/covid-19_cont/Addendum%20II%20-%20Moderate%20Acuity.pdf)
4. [https://www.leadingagemi.org/resource/resmgr/covid-19/covid-19 cont /Addendum IIa - Moderate Acuity.pdf](https://www.leadingagemi.org/resource/resmgr/covid-19/covid-19_cont/Addendum%20IIa%20-%20Moderate%20Acuity.pdf)
5. [https://www.leadingagemi.org/resource/resmgr/covid-19/covid-19 cont /Addendum III - High Acuity S.pdf](https://www.leadingagemi.org/resource/resmgr/covid-19/covid-19_cont/Addendum%20III%20-%20High%20Acuity%20S.pdf)
6. [https://www.leadingagemi.org/resource/resmgr/covid-19/covid-19 cont /Addendum III - High Acuity S.pdf](https://www.leadingagemi.org/resource/resmgr/covid-19/covid-19_cont/Addendum%20III%20-%20High%20Acuity%20S.pdf)
7. [https://www.leadingagemi.org/resource/resmgr/covid-19/covid-19 cont /SOM Congregate Facilities Re.pdf](https://www.leadingagemi.org/resource/resmgr/covid-19/covid-19_cont/SOM%20Congregate%20Facilities%20Re.pdf)

Medicare Testing and Coverage

Aligns with CDC COVID-19 Testing Guidelines for Nursing Homes

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/nursing-homes-testing.html>

Read the memo to Medicare Advantage plans:

<https://cms.gov/files/document/hpms-memo-diagnostic-testing-nursing-home-residents-and-patients-coronavirus-disease-2019.pdf>

More information about Medicare coverage of COVID-19 tests is available at:

<https://www.medicare.gov/coverage/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-tests>.

Congregate Setting Recommendations (from MDHHS)

https://www.leadingagemi.org/resource/resmgr/covid-19/covid-19_cont_/Congregate_Setting_COVID_Tes.pdf

MDLARA FAQs – see link above

CDC – Applying COVID IPC Strategies – 6/16/2020

https://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/ppt/2020/COCA_Call_Final_06_16_20.pdf

LeadingAge Reopening Guidance for Assisted Living and Nursing Homes

[Reopening" to Visitors: A Review of CMS and States' Guidance to Nursing Homes](#) (6/23/20)

"Reopening" to Visitors: A Review of States' Guidance for AL (6/22/20)

CDC Testing Updates

Each facility should have a plan – check CDC guidance: Preparing for COVID in Nursing Homes at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/long-term-care.html> (June 22)

Considerations for Performing Facility Wide Testing in Nursing Homes

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/nursing-homes-facility-wide-testing.html>

Interim guidance in response to suspected or confirmed COVID in nursing homes

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/nursing-homes-testing.html>

MDHHS Nursing Home Updates – Webpage

https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98178_100722---,00.html

Reporting

https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98163_98173-526911--,00.html