



LOUISIANA HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

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LHA COVID-19 ALERT: State Healthcare Briefing Today at 4 p.m.

Good afternoon,

Yesterday, Gov. Edwards held a COVID-19 Healthcare Association briefing for hospital and nursing home leaders. The state call-in option was terminated, because the system was overloaded by the volume of calls, and they have apologized for any inconvenience.

- **The state is holding a follow-up call today at 4 p.m.** LDH highly encourages you to use your computer and your computer's audio by clicking on the link below. If you choose to use your smart phone, you will be prompted to download the Zoom App.
 - To join via desktop, laptop, or other web-enabled device, visit <https://zoom.us/j/569830129?pwd=TU5jUC9FYW1rbVBnTXVKcjA1WWFsdz09>; Password: 284591; Conference Code: 294942
 - If you are only able to join by phone (audio-only): Dial: (636) 651-3185; Conference Code: 294942
- The LHA has created a [Hospital COVID-19 Checklist](#) as a tool for all levels of clinical response partners and front-line leaders to assist in their response preparations.

Below are the important takeaways from yesterday's call, which primarily focused on reinforcing current guidance:

- Hospitals and nursing homes were encouraged to review their policies, procedure, and action plans.
- Louisiana officials are expecting \$4 million to \$5 million in federal emergency relief funds by the end of the month. No details were provided on how the money will be used or distributed.
- Currently, the state has 600 COVID-19 tests available, but commercial testing is ramping up. The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) issued an [LA HAN alert](#) yesterday evening regarding state laboratory testing protocols and commercial testing options through [LabCorp](#) and [Quest](#).
- As for state preparation, Louisiana's State Health Officer Dr. Guidry said that the state-level pan flu plans are in place, and they are conducting regional tabletop exercises.
- Cecile Castello with LDH Health Standards Section noted that [according to CMS](#), until further notice, state agencies and accrediting organizations inspecting nursing homes and hospitals will be focused on ensuring correct practices are being followed for infection control and patient safety.

To assist LHA members in preparing their facilities, the Association has created a COVID-19 [webpage](#) with links to local, state and national hospital-specific resources and guidance from trusted sources.

Note: This Alert is being distributed to hospital C-Suite personnel in the LHA database.