

**In This COVID-19 Update:**

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## **CMS Calls Later Today**

### **Medicare Learning Network COVID-19 Update**

Please join the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for a Medicare Learning Network event to hear about updates on recent CMS actions taken to address the COVID-19 public health emergency.

#### *Details*

- When: Today, Tuesday, April 7 from 2:00 to 3:00 pm EDT
- **Registration: Closes at 12:00 pm EDT. [Register](#)**
- Target Audience: All Medicare fee-for-service providers and interested stakeholders.
- Event Materials: [Presentation \(PDF\)](#)
- Audio recording and transcript: Available approximately 2 weeks after the event.

### **CMS “Office Hours” on COVID-19**

The first in a series of opportunities for hospitals, health systems, and providers to ask questions of agency officials regarding CMS’s temporary actions that empower local hospitals and healthcare systems to:

- Increase Hospital Capacity – CMS Hospitals Without Walls;
- Rapidly Expand the Healthcare Workforce;
- Put Patients Over Paperwork; and
- Further Promote Telehealth in Medicare

Submit questions in advance to [partnership@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:partnership@cms.hhs.gov), including “Office Hours” in the subject line. There will also be live Q&A.

Conference lines are limited, so CMS highly encourages that you to join via [audio webcast](#), either on your computer or smartphone web browser. You are welcome to share this invitation with your colleagues and membership.

- Tuesday, April 7th from 5:00 – 6:00 PM EDT
- Toll-Free Attendee Dial In: 833-614-0820
- Event Plus Passcode: 6793622

- [Audio Webcast link](#)

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## Access to COVID-19 Testing in LTC

COVID-19 testing continues to be a significant point of concern for LTC providers. LTC residents with symptoms fall into priority category two for testing, according to CDC guidance. While not required, some state and local health departments and/or individual clinicians are using this guidance to prioritize testing. There is also a significant backlog of tests and growing shortage of testing supplies in labs across the country, which is also causing delays.

Members who are approached by companies selling antibody tests (blood tests with rapid result) should be aware that this is different than a PCR test and cannot diagnose a patient with COVID-19. Members should also verify that any company selling a test has an EUA from the FDA. [More information is provided here](#). AHCA/NCAL continues to seek options for vendors that can provide testing for LTC and will continue to update you when new information is available.

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## Mark Parkinson on Fox News

Yesterday, AHCA/NCAL President & CEO Mark Parkinson appeared on the Fox News program America's Newsroom, talking about the impact of COVID-19 on America's long term care facilities, the need for priority testing and PPE, and how federal and state officials can help.



WATCH NOW

Please email [COVID19@ahca.org](mailto:COVID19@ahca.org) for additional questions, or visit [ahcancal.org/coronavirus](http://ahcancal.org/coronavirus) for more information.

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