

In This COVID-19 Update:

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Update on Personal Protective Equipment

Obtaining personal protective equipment (PPE) continues to be a challenge for long term care providers in many parts of the country. FEMA is now playing a primary national role in determining how PPE is distributed across the country. State and local governments are also playing a role in the supply and distribution of PPE.

There are no quick fixes to the national PPE shortage. One coalition, [Project N95](#), has formed to help link PPE suppliers with health care providers, including long term care, in need. More information on PPE availability, conservation, and what to do when you are running low are available [here](#).

AHCA/NCAL will keep members apprised of any developments with the PPE supply as those details become available.

COVID-19 Testing Vendors for LTC

On April 7, AHCA/NCAL provided a [summary](#) of the challenges LTC providers are facing in gaining access to COVID-19 testing. AHCA/NCAL has been seeking companies who can provide testing for LTC providers with reasonable turnaround times, and have put together a list of credible vendors [here](#). This list will be continuously updated as more vendors are found. If you know of any vendors that should be added to this list, please contact us at COVID19@ahca.org.

No-Interest COVID-19 Financial Support Available

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) COVID-19 Accelerated Payment Program is a streamlined version of existing policy that allows Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) to issue no-interest short term loan payments in certain circumstances, including national emergencies. AHCA members and Independent Operator Council co-chairs Sarah Schumann and Mark Traylor, who submitted requests for and quickly received the accelerated payments, have the following recommendations for their peers:

"We strongly recommend that SNF operators take full advantage of the CMS COVID-19 Accelerated Payment Program. It's a simple 5-10-minute process

to complete and submit the application for an interest-free loan to assure adequate cash-flow during these challenging times. Since it must be paid back later, we suggest setting this advance into a separate reserve account to use as an emergency fund.”

Providers can learn more details in the AHCA Accelerated and Advanced Payments FAQ document [here](#).

Please email COVID19@ahca.org for additional questions, or visit ahcancal.org/coronavirus for more information.

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