

In This COVID-19 Update:

- [Guidance on Collaborating with Hospice](#)
- [Action Brief on Infection Control Focused Survey](#)
- [New Video from Mark: Targeting Interactions to Reduce Spread](#)

Guidance on Collaborating with Hospice

AHCA/NCAL worked with National Hospice & Palliative Care Organization to develop [joint guidance](#) on the important role hospice plays during the spread of COVID-19 in nursing homes and assisted living. Hospice is an integral part of the resident's care team. As COVID-19 spreads, hospice may become even more important, including helping with grief counseling for not only families and residents, but for staff as well. Here are some broad principles to consider when hospice is involved:

1. Use alternate methods to conduct the visit (phone call, phone with video, or other device with audio and video capability), particularly for routine visits.
2. Minimize the number of different hospice staff dedicated to a LTC facility.
 1. Consider assigning staff to facilities and minimizing entry into multiple buildings as movement of staff between buildings is suspected to be one mechanism of COVID-19 spread.
 2. If COVID-19 is discovered in a building, hospice staff should strongly consider limiting their movement to other buildings and self-monitor for fever or respiratory symptoms.
3. Bundle visits to minimize the number of different days hospice needs to be in the building.
4. Maximize the number and types of care and services provided by a single staff member (hospice or LTC) to minimize different people needing to enter a room, particularly at COVID spreads.
5. Utilize hospice's grief counselling services with families and also with staff.

Action Brief on Infection Control Focused SNF Surveys

March 23, 2020, CMS announced federal and state surveyors will conduct targeted infection control surveys of providers. They will base the survey on the abbreviated infection and prevention survey tool. AHCA developed an

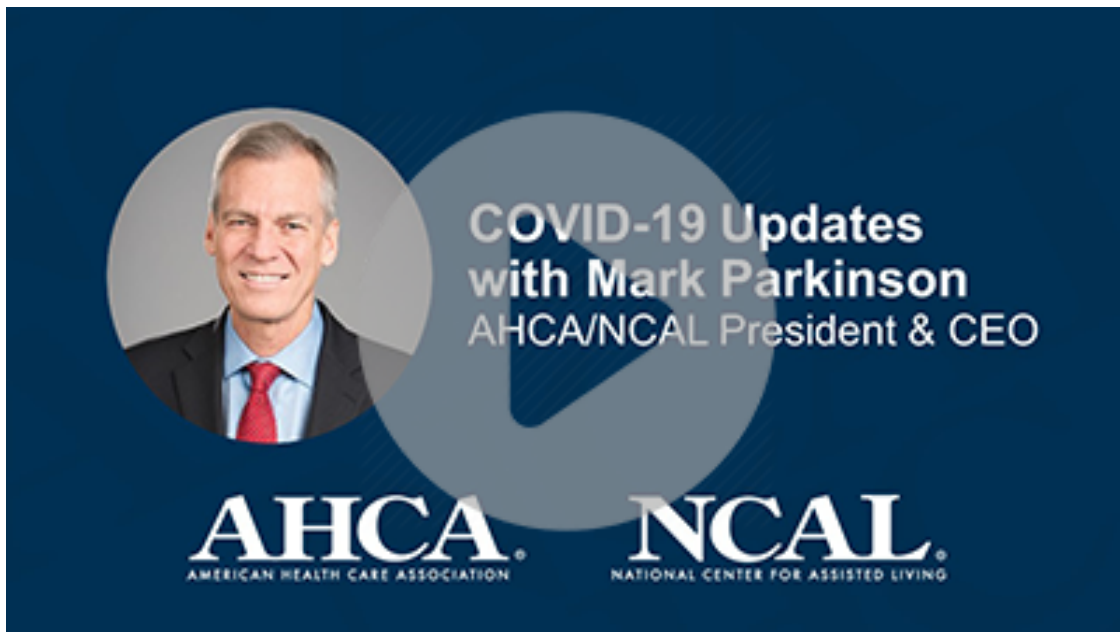
[action brief](#) to help centers navigate the focused surveys, including implementation and preparation strategies. Centers are strongly encouraged to enact peer monitoring by all staff to ensure just-in-time teaching practices that reflect appropriate infection control procedures.

New Video from Mark: Targeting Interactions to Reduce Spread

The latest in our COVID-19 Video Series features President & CEO Mark Parkinson talking with Chief Medical Officer Dr. David Gifford about ways long term care facilities can limit the spread of coronavirus by targeting interactions with residents and staff.

The video highlights two resources AHCA/NCAL has shared previously: [What to Do When COVID-19 Gets into your LTC Facility](#) (note: assume it's already there) and [Cohorting Residents](#).

Plus, Mark shares an [uplifting story](#) out of Oregon.



WATCH NOW

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

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