



CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)

WEEKLY UPDATE

LONG-TERM CARE AND RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITIES

Wednesday, May 13, 2020

Greetings Long-Term Care and Residential Care Facilities of San Diego County,

Thank you for your continued efforts and partnership with the County of San Diego as we continue to protect our vulnerable residents from COVID-19. Please see the latest updates, guidance, and resources below.



Announcements and New Releases



Updates from the California Department of Public Health

CDPH publishes news releases and All Facilities Letter (AFL) releases regularly. If you would like to receive email notifications of AFLs, please submit your request to LNCPolicy@cdph.ca.gov.

See the newly released advisories below:

News Release - Tuesday, May 12, 2020

CDPH Announces New Sectors that can Reopen with Modifications Statewide

California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Director and State Health Officer Dr. Sonia Angell announced today additional sectors that can open statewide as part of Stage 2. These include office workspaces where teleworking is not possible, outdoor museums and limited personal services -- such as car washes, dog-grooming and landscaping -- with protections to limit the spread of COVID-19 as the state continues to modify its Stay at Home order. More information provided on the [CDPH Covid-19 website](#).

[Access the full news release here](#)

Letter to Skilled Nursing Facilities - Monday, May 11, 2020

COVID-19 Mitigation Plan Implementation and Submission Requirements for Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNF) and Infection Control Guidance for Health Care Personnel (HCP)

This AFL advises SNFs of the requirement to submit a facility specific COVID-19 mitigation plan with specified elements to CDPH within 21 calendar days and provides updated infection control guidance for HCP.

[Access the entire AFL 20-52 here](#)

Letter to All Facilities - Saturday, May 9, 2020

Updated COVID-19 Symptoms

This AFL notifies health facilities of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) update on COVID-19 symptoms. Health facilities should ensure their screening process and policies and procedures reflect the updated symptoms.

[Access the entire AFL 50-51 here](#)

Letter to Skilled Nursing Facilities - Friday, April 24, 2020

Skilled Nursing Facilities Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Daily Reporting

This AFL requires all SNFs to report daily updates regarding current staffing levels, the number of COVID-19 patients, and equipment availability to CDPH via an online survey. This reporting is to ensure that California has the information necessary to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak and to provide resources and support to SNFs.

[Access the entire AFL 20-43.1 here](#)



Recent Updates from the California Health Alert Network

Notes from a conference call for Skilled Nursing Facilities, May 7, 2020

The California Association of Long-Term Care Medicine has developed the Long-Term Care Quadruple Aim for COVID-19 Response. It consists of four key elements: stellar infection prevention; abundant PPE, readily available testing, and operating in emergency preparedness mode.

To access the full meeting notes, see attached document titled "[AFC-SNF+IP+Call+Notes+5.7.20.docx](#)"



Recent Updates from the California Department of Social Services

The Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD) of CDSS publishes Provider Information Notices (PINs) to formally communicate important license-related information to CCLD-licensed providers. [Click here for more information about PINs.](#)

Letter to Adult and Senior Care (ASC) Program licensees and administrators, Home Care Organization (HCO) licensees, and Home Care Aides (HCAs) - May 8, 2020

Updated Statewide Waivers for Background Check Requirements

PIN 20-12-CCLD provides updated guidance to ASCs, HCOs, and HCAs regarding the statewide waivers for background checks, and supersedes the background check waivers issued in PIN 20-09-CCLD dated April 2, 2020. [More information and a full list of PINs here.](#)
[Access the entire PIN 20-12-CCLD here](#)



CDC COVID-19 Trainings for Nursing Home and Long-Term Care Facility Staff

CDC COVID-19 Prevention Messages: Mini Webinar Series for Long-Term Care Staff

CDC launched a mini webinar training series for frontline long-term care and nursing home staff. This series of 5 short webinars reviews basic infection prevention steps including: [proper use of personal protective equipment \(PPE\) and facemasks](#), [how and when to perform hand hygiene](#), [how and when to clean surfaces](#), and [the need to check residents and staff daily for symptoms of COVID-19](#).



Upcoming Telebriefings



Telebriefing for Long-Term Care and Residential Care Facilities on Friday, May 15

**Friday, May 15
at 4pm**

Every other Friday, the County provides a Sector Telebriefing for **Long-Term Care and Residential Care Facilities**. This includes skilled nursing facilities, assisted livings, board and cares, adult residential facilities, and adult day programs.

If you are interested, please join us on **Friday, May 15 at 4:00 pm** for our next telebriefing and [pre-submit your questions in advance](#). All participants will be muted during the meeting. Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions during the call through the online chat feature on the Zoom platform.

Join the telebriefing at the specified time and date using one of the options below:

- Option 1 | Computer (preferred):
 - Click on the following link <https://zoom.us/j/218631109>
 - Meeting ID: 218 631 109.
 - If you have any difficulties accessing the participant link, please use option 2.
- Option 2 | Phone:
 - Dial-In Number: 1 (669) 900-6833 or 1 (346) 248-7799
 - Meeting ID: 218 631 109.

[Visit the Long-Term Care and Residential Care Facilities Sector Support webpage to learn more.](#)



**Friday, May 22
at 4pm**

Telebriefing for Older Adult and Disability Service Providers on Friday, May 22

Every other Friday, the County provides a Sector Telebriefing for **Older Adult and Disability Service Providers**. These telebriefings are meant for providers to get information specific to their sector, and for representatives from this sector to ask questions.

Don't forget to join the telebriefing on **Friday, May 22 at 4:00 pm** and [pre-submit your questions in advance](#). All participants will be muted during the meeting. Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions during the call through the online chat feature on the Zoom platform.

Join the telebriefing at the specified time and date using one of the options below:

- Option 1 | Computer (preferred):
 - Click on the following link <https://zoom.us/j/218631109>
 - Meeting ID: 218 631 109.
 - If you have any difficulties accessing the participant link, please use option 2.
- Option 2 | Phone:
 - Dial-In Number: 1 (669) 900-6833 or 1 (346) 248-7799
 - Meeting ID: 218 631 109.

[Visit the Older Adult and Disability Service Providers Sector Support webpage to learn more.](#)



Ongoing Programs, Services and Resources



County of San Diego - COVID-19 Dashboard

The County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Epidemiology and Immunization Services Branch has developed an interactive web-based dashboard to help San Diegans visualize and track cases in real time.

[See the dashboard.](#)



Latest San Diego County Public Health Order

The latest updates to the local Public Health Order included additional key items for essential businesses still in operation.

[Read the order.](#)



Long-Term Care & Residential Care Facilities Website

There are updates, guidance, and resources provided on the [Long-Term Care and Residential Care Facilities sector support web page](#).

This page is part of the County's www.coronavirus-sd.com website.



Live Well @ Home

[Live Well @ Home](#) is a free resource to help community residents find tips and strategies to stay healthy in both mind and body while staying at home. Resources are organized by age group and then

displayed by category, such as physical activity, mindfulness, and social connection, to help you find the right tools to match your needs.



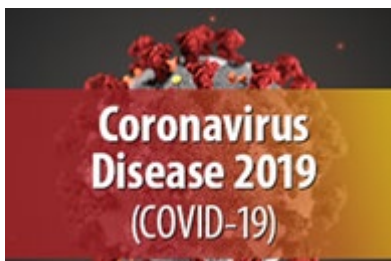
[211 San Diego](#)

- For health or testing related questions, contact your healthcare provider. For general questions about COVID-19, information about community resources, or if you are uninsured, call **2-1-1 San Diego**.
- [2-1-1 San Diego Flyer](#) (English & Spanish)



[COVID-19 Downloadable Resources and Materials for Your Facility](#)

- [Find FAQs, posters, videos, and other materials.](#)



[California Department of Public Health, Immunization Branch – COVID-19](#)

[California Department of Social Services – COVID 19](#)

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – COVID-19](#)

[World Health Organization – Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\) Outbreak](#)



Stay Connected



For questions related to long-term care and residential care facilities, please email: COVID-LTC@sdcounty.ca.gov.



Get the latest information about what's happening across the county with COVID-19.



Text **COSD COVID-19** to **468-311**

to get text alert updates





**California Department of Public Health
Center for Health Care Quality
AFC Skilled Nursing Facilities IP Call
May 7, 2020 8:00 am**

I. Welcome / Introduction:

Heidi Steinecker

None provided.

II. CALTCM:

Dr. Mike Wasserman

Infection Prevention Leadership

The California Association of Long-Term Care Medicine has developed the Long-Term Care Quadruple Aim for COVID-19 Response. It consists of four key elements: stellar infection prevention; abundant PPE, readily available testing, and operating in emergency preparedness mode.

The first step towards achieving “stellar infection prevention” is to EMPOWER THE INFECTION PREVENTIONIST (IP). In most nursing homes, IPs often have multiple jobs. During this pandemic, we believe that you need to focus your FULL-TIME efforts in carrying out your role, and you should not be distracted by other responsibilities. We understand that there will be pressure to assist in other areas, but your role is essential to combatting this virus. We hope that your administrator and organization support this concept.

I will leave more specific roles and responsibilities to other speakers, but want to focus on two simple but challenging areas.

You Are the Infection Control Brigadier General

Even hospitals struggle to achieve over 85% hand washing compliance. During this pandemic, we MUST strive to be at 100%. In addition to being the Infection Control Brigadier General, it is a best practice to deputize others during all shifts to monitor hand washing compliance. Proper use of PPE is far from simple. You must be diligent in education, training and monitoring of PPE use. Similarly, you must identify other staff on all shifts to monitor the appropriate and effective use of PPE. This virus must not be allowed to spread.

Engage Your Medical Director

The facility Medical Director needs to be actively engaged in all aspects of the response to this pandemic and should be strongly supporting your role and responsibilities. You should work directly with your facility medical director. In fact, if you are not being given the time and

resources to fulfill your role and responsibilities, the medical director would be a good person to get support from.

Strongly Supportive Administrator and Director of Nursing

Hopefully, your administrator and director of nursing should be demonstrating strong support for you and your role! They should also be rounding regularly throughout the facility PROMOTING STELLAR HAND HYGIENE and supporting your role. Your facility should also be operating under its Emergency Preparedness Protocol. This means that all your time needs to be spent focusing on infection prevention. You should try not to be distracted by meetings that are not related to the performance of your job as an infection preventionist. The California Association of Long-Term Care Medicine is here to support your role in assuring the delivery of the highest quality of care to the most vulnerable members of our society. Please feel free to reach out to us if you have any questions or need any support in fulfilling your important role as IPs.

III. Healthcare-Associated Infections:

Dr. Erin Epton & Vicki Keller

SNF COVID-19 Infection Prevention Strategies and Frequently Observed Challenges

Screening HCP prior to each shift:

Active screening for fever, cough, sore throat and shortness of breath is required before the HCP begins their shift. Active means HCP taking temperatures and asking the screening questions. CDPH also recommends asking if the HCP has had any other symptoms of illness such as diarrhea, nausea, or fatigue.

Implement Environmental Infection Control (website)

- Dedicated medical equipment should be used when caring for patients with known or suspected COVID-19.
 - All non-dedicated, non-disposable medical equipment used for patient care should be cleaned and disinfected according to manufacturer's instructions and facility policies.
 - *There should be a policy describing who cleans what and when*
 - *Stored equipment should be identified as having been cleaned/disinfected*
 - *Ensure cleaned and dirty equipment are stored in separate areas*
- Ensure that environmental cleaning and disinfection procedures are followed consistently and correctly.
 - *Staff must be trained upon hire and annually on proper cleaning and disinfection of the environment.*
 - *Return demonstration of cleaning technique*
 - *Implement a process to assess adherence to cleaning/disinfection practices*
 - *Provide feedback to staff to ensure remediation of poor practices*
- Routine cleaning and disinfection procedures (e.g., using cleaners and water to pre-clean surfaces prior to applying an EPA-registered, hospital-grade disinfectant to

frequently touched surfaces or objects for appropriate contact times as indicated on the product's label) are appropriate for SARS-CoV-2 in healthcare settings, including those patient-care areas in which aerosol generating procedures are performed.

- Refer to [List N](#) on the EPA website for EPA-registered disinfectants that have qualified under EPA's emerging viral pathogens program for use against SARS-CoV-2.
- Additional information about recommended practices for terminal cleaning of rooms and PPE to be worn by environmental services personnel is available in the [Healthcare Infection Prevention and Control FAQs for COVID-19 \(website\)](#)

IV: Questions & Answers:

Q: Facilities have concerns about the 14-day isolation period, mostly related to PPE shortages. Have you considered alternative strategies? (Such as isolating for 72 hours, testing once they arrive)

A: Tests have limitations, since the incubation period is 14 days. We recommend the separate rooms for this monitoring/isolation period. While those alternative strategies would be helpful, testing at the end can provide more accurate information. It is a challenge, however adherence to these protocols is crucial.

Q: How should a SNF handle laundry, food utensils and medical waste from a COVID-19 positive resident room?

A: Management of laundry, food service utensils, and medical waste should also be performed in accordance with routine procedures.

Q: Terminal cleaning, how often this should be done for patients suspected or with COVID

A: Cleaning should be done regularly. Even if the body is in the room, cleaning should continue. Conserve PPE by combining cleaning protocols and limiting EVS/terminal cleaning staff.

Q: Question related to screening, would you recommend all levels of care doing this?

A: Enhanced monitoring for those with COVID, three daily screening not necessarily needed for non-SNFs.

Q: Abbott test ID now, complaint over priority levels (urgent care over SNFs), what can we do to advocate to change this logic and getting machines to facilities?

A: This can be addressed offline, we can also address through Governor's task force as well as our partnership with CAHFN.

Q: When should facilities consider implementation of extended use for gowns?

A: We strongly discourage the use of this practice, this should only be done in a crisis scenario where there is a limited number of gowns available.