

CDC Call: Tuesday, March 17 at 2pm ET

During this call, CDC will focus on current information about COVID-19 as it relates to long term care facilities. Topics will include infection prevention and control guidance, steps facilities should take to prepare, and available resources.

[Instructions for joining the call are online here.](#)

New Communal Dining Guidance

CMS's memo dated March 13, 2020 includes guidance to "*cancel communal dining and all group activities*" in skilled nursing facilities. While this CMS guidance is not a requirement for assisted living communities, **all long term care facilities should take all reasonably available steps to adhere**, given the dire consequences of the spread of COVID-19 among our resident population.

Implementing this can be a challenge and will likely require changes in staffing patterns as well as enlisting other staff in the facility in order to accomplish. How this is implemented must be viewed on a facility-by-facility and day-to-day basis depending on your physical plant, staff availability, and resident needs.

This virus is now reported in 49 states. You should assume it is already in your surrounding community, whether or not it has been confirmed, due to lack of testing to-date. The experience in the Seattle, Washington area suggests spread may have been facilitated by group activities, including perhaps communal dining.

[Please review this recommended approach on how to implement social distancing in your dining practices.](#)

Supply Shortage of PPE

We have heard from many of you about rapidly declining supply for personal protective equipment (PPE), particularly surgical masks and gowns, N-95 masks or face shields. As you all know, the current worldwide shortage, coupled with the increased demand for PPE has created a dire situation for their availability in long term care facilities and other providers. We have raised this concern with every agency at the highest level, including the Vice President.

If you have not already started, which we understand many of you have, we

recommend initiating as many conservation approaches where you are able. If you are imminently (within 3-4 days) about to exhaust specific PPE supplies, you should take these steps in this order:

1. Contact your [local healthcare coalition](#)
2. Contact your [state health department](#)
3. Contact your [local health department](#)
4. Contact your local hospital(s) and other health care providers in your area about possibly sharing PPE supplies.

Please email COVID19@ahca.org for additional questions, and visit www.ahcancal.org/coronavirus for additional information and resources.

This message contains confidential information and is intended only for AHCA/NCAL membership. Dissemination, distribution or copying the contents of this email beyond this group is strictly prohibited.



[AHCA](#) | [NCAL](#) | [Provider](#)

© 2020 American Health Care Association. All rights reserved.