

*This document provides a recap of guidance and other information. It is a resource to manage the evolving material for health care facilities and professionals as well as those entrusted to postmortem care. It is not meant to serve as an all-inclusive compilation.*

| PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH GUIDANCE PUBLISHED THIS WEEK |  |                |                            |
|--|--|----------------|----------------------------|
| Date   | Title  | New or Revised | Audience                   |
| 9/29/2020  | <a href="#">Frequently Asked Questions - Interim Guidance for Skilled Nursing Facilities During COVID-19</a> | Revised        | Skilled nursing facilities |

| RELEVANT CDC AND CMS GUIDANCE PUBLISHED RECENTLY   |   |
|--|---|
| Title  | Audience  |
| CMS has released a decision flowchart with additional slides on <a href="#">Medicare Payment for COVID-19 Viral Testing</a> for skilled nursing facilities and nursing facilities.   | Skilled nursing facilities, nursing facilities  |
| CDC released a <a href="#">Science Update</a> on 9/29/2020.  | Epidemiologists, public health professionals, health care providers   |
| On 9/29/2020, CMS <a href="#">announced an update</a> to the methodology the agency employs to determine the rate of COVID-19 positivity in counties across the country. Counties with 20 or fewer tests over 14 days will now move to “green” in their color-coded system of assessing COVID-19 community prevalence. Counties with both fewer than 500 tests and fewer than 2,000 tests per 100,000 residents, and greater than 10 percent positivity over 14 days – which would have been “red” under the previous methodology – will move to “yellow.” | Skilled nursing facilities (for purposes of testing frequency based on county positivity rates), public health professionals, health care providers |

| SOME QUESTION(S) RECEIVED RECENTLY   |  |
|--|--|
| Question   | Answer   |
| Must a skilled nursing facility accept a patient discharging from a hospital prior to receipt of the COVID-19 test result? | The Department has direction about this subject in the <i>Mandatory Patient Testing for COVID-19 Prior to Discharge to a Receiving Facility</i> section of the <a href="#">Guidance on Hospital Responses to COVID-19</a> . If a patient is known to have or suspected of having COVID-19 but awaiting test results, the discharge should be to a facility that has the ability to adhere to infection prevention and control recommendations of the Department and CDC for the care of COVID-19 patients. A facility may not refuse to accept or readmit a patient or resident due to pending test results but may refuse to accept a patient or resident if the COVID-19 test has not been administered. |

## OTHER NOTEWORTHY INFORMATION

- On 10/1/2020, [PA-HAN 528, Considerations for Evaluating Patients for SARS-CoV-2](#) was released.
- On 10/2/2020, Governor Wolf announced that Pennsylvanians who downloaded COVID Alert PA will now be able to get notifications to their smart phones if they are exposed to COVID-19 when they travel to New Jersey, New York, or Delaware. Click [here](#) for the press release.
- If you travel to a state with a high number of COVID-19 cases, it is recommended that you stay at home for 14 days upon return to Pennsylvania. A [list of those states](#) has been created and is updated each Friday.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

| Source   | Address   |
|--|---|
| Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH)                    | <a href="https://www.health.pa.gov/">https://www.health.pa.gov/</a>   |
| DOH COVID-19 Info for Nursing Homes                        | <a href="https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Nursing-Homes.aspx">https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Nursing-Homes.aspx</a>                         |
| DOH COVID-19 Info for Hospitals                            | <a href="https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Hospitals.aspx">https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Hospitals.aspx</a>                                 |
| DOH COVID-19 Info for Other Licensed Healthcare Facilities | <a href="https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Health-Care-Facilities.aspx">https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Health-Care-Facilities.aspx</a>       |
| DOH COVID-19 Info for Health Care Professionals            | <a href="https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Health-Care-Professionals.aspx">https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Health-Care-Professionals.aspx</a> |
| DOH COVID-19 Info for Dental Care                          | <a href="https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Dental-Care.aspx">https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Dental-Care.aspx</a>                             |
| DOH COVID-19 Info for Coroners/Medical Examiners           | <a href="https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Coroners.aspx">https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Coroners.aspx</a>                                   |
| DOH COVID-19 Info for Funeral Directors                    | <a href="https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Funeral-Directors.aspx">https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Funeral-Directors.aspx</a>                 |
| 2020 DOH Health Alerts, Advisories and Updates             | <a href="https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/pr ep/PA-HAN/Pages/2020-HAN.aspx">https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/pr ep/PA-HAN/Pages/2020-HAN.aspx</a>   |
| Centers for Disease Control and Prevention                 | <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/">https://www.cdc.gov/</a>   |