

*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
10/21/2020	<a href="#">COVID-19 and Treatment Drugs Frequently Asked Questions</a>	Revised	All

RELEVANT CDC AND CMS GUIDANCE PUBLISHED RECENTLY	
Title	Audience
On 10/16/2020, CDC provided a <a href="#">COVID-19 Science Update</a> .	Public health and healthcare professionals
On 10/19/2020, CDC updated its strategies to help protect individuals and their families, friends, and communities from COVID-19 during <a href="#">Holiday Celebrations</a> .	All
On 10/22/2020, CDC provided updated information on COVID-19 prevention strategies during <a href="#">Personal and Social Activities</a> .	All
On 10/23/2020, the National Center for Health Statistics at CDC published information about <a href="#">Excess Deaths Associated with COVID-19, by Age, Race, and Ethnicity in the United States for the period January 26 to October 3, 2020</a> .	Public health and healthcare professionals

SOME QUESTION(S) RECEIVED RECENTLY	
Question	Answer
Are EMS required to be tested for COVID-19 in order to enter a skilled nursing facility?	At this point, there is no specific guidance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) regarding this. In lieu of that, the following answer is provided. EMS providers who are solely at the facility in response to a 911 call do not need to be part of the testing regimen. However, EMS providers that are used for non-emergency medical transportation should have protocols in place to consistently screen and monitor their employees for signs and symptoms of COVID-19. Those protocols should be maintained in written policies and procedures at the EMS agency and shared with the skilled nursing facility to be available to Department surveyors. All EMS personnel who enter a skilled nursing facility for non-emergency reasons are still subject to screening protocols of the facility. If CMS provides guidance that conflicts with this answer, that guidance will take precedence.

## OTHER NOTEWORTHY INFORMATION

- If you travel to a state with a high number of COVID-19 cases, it is recommended that you quarantine for 14 days upon return to Pennsylvania. A [list of those states](#) has been created and is updated each Friday. The list published on 10/23/2020 remains the same as the prior week. It includes the following **25** states: Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

## 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/prep/PA-HAN/Pages/2020-HAN.aspx">https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/prep/PA-HAN/Pages/2020-HAN.aspx</a>
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	<a href="https://www.cdc.gov/">https://www.cdc.gov/</a>