COVID-19 Guidance Wrap-up
Week Ending September 18, 2020

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**
	None		

RELEVANT CDC AND CMS GUIDANCE PUBLISHED RECENTLY	
Title	**Audience**
Interim Final Rule (IFC), CMS-3401-IFC, Additional Policy and Regulatory Revisions in Response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency related to Long-Term Care (LTC) Facility Testing Requirements and Revised COVID-19 Focused Survey Tool	Skilled nursing facilities
Contact Tracing: Frequently Asked Questions	County/municipal health departments, public health professionals, healthcare professionals
Long-Term Effects of COVID-19	Public health professionals, healthcare professionals

SOME QUESTION(S) RECEIVED RECENTLY	
Question	**Answer**
Are you able to clarify if ambulatory surgical facilities' employees should be wearing eye protection when dealing with pre-screened and asymptomatic patients?	Yes, eye protection (i.e., goggles or a face shield that covers the front and sides of the face) is now recommended for all healthcare settings in addition to a facemask to ensure the eyes, nose, and mouth are protected from exposure to respiratory secretions for all patient care encounters.
Regarding eye protection, are prescription eyeglasses enough and then protective glasses for those who do not wear prescription glasses?	Eyewear (prescription eyeglasses, safety glasses, or trauma glasses) with gaps between glasses and the face likely do not protect eyes from all splashes and sprays.

SOME QUESTION(S) RECEIVED RECENTLY	
Question	**Answer**
The current Department of Health guidance refers skilled nursing facilities to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) data site to determine the positivity rate in their county (which determines their screening testing intervals). Can we use state data instead?	CMS has clarified that a facility may choose the data source for their county's positivity rate. A facility may choose the CMS data, PA Department of Health data, or another published source such as county data. Once the facility has chosen their data source, they must continue to use that same source. If the facility chooses a source other than CMS, they must document that the selected source provides more current data than CMS.
A resident was admitted to our skilled nursing facility with a test pending from the hospital and the facility subsequently received the result as a positive. Is this to be reported to Survey 123 as a positive case for our facility?	Yes, it is to be reported to Survey 123 as a positive case for the facility.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY INFORMATION

- On 9/14/2020, HAN 525, Guidance for Patients Under Quarantine After Exposure to SARS-CoV-2 was released.
- On 9/15/2020, Governor Wolf responded to the federal court ruling regarding the business closure order and other orders issued in March. Click here for the press release.
- On 9/15/2020, Governor Wolf announced the approval of $20 million in grant funding through the COVID-19 Cultural and Museum Preservation Grant Program for cultural organizations and museums to offset lost revenue caused by the pandemic. Click here for the press release.
- On 9/17/2020, HAN 526, Point-of-Care Antigen Testing for SARS-CoV-2 in Long-term Care Facilities was released.
- On 9/17/2020, Governor Wolf and Health Secretary Dr. Levine signed new orders that restaurants may increase indoor occupancy to 50 percent starting Monday, 9/21/2020. 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. On 9/18/2020, states were added to the list. The current list is follows: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, and Wisconsin.

FOR MORE INFORMATION	
Source	**Address**
Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH)	https://www.health.pa.gov/
DOH COVID-19 Info for Nursing Homes	https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Nursing-Homes.aspx
DOH COVID-19 Info for Hospitals	https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Hospitals.aspx
DOH COVID-19 Info for Other Licensed Healthcare Facilities	https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Health-Care-Facilities.aspx
DOH COVID-19 Info for Health Care Professionals	https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Health-Care-Professionals.aspx
DOH COVID-19 Info for Dental Care	https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Dental-Care.aspx
DOH COVID-19 Info for Coroners/Medical Examiners	https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Coroners.aspx
DOH COVID-19 Info for Funeral Directors	https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Funeral-Directors.aspx
2020 DOH Health Alerts, Advisories and Updates	https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/prep/PA-HAN/Pages/2020-HAN.aspx
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	https://www.cdc.gov/