



To: Home Health & Hospice Providers
From: IEHP – Provider Relations
Date: June 3, 2020
Subject: **COVID-19: Guidance for Infection Control & Prevention in Home Health Agencies**

CMS issued critical recommendations to state and local governments, as well as Home Health Agencies, to address infection control and prevention concerning COVID-19. These recommendations will be effectively immediately.

IN SUMMARY

Guidance:

- Home Health Agencies (HHAs) should monitor the health status of everyone (patients, residents, visitors, staff, etc.) in the homecare setting for signs and symptoms of COVID-19.
- When making a home visit, HHAs should identify patients at risk for having COVID-19 infection before or immediately upon arrival to the home.
- HHAs should monitor the CDC website for information and resources and contact local health department when needed (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>).
- HHAs should implement source control measures such as placing a facemask over the patient’s nose and mouth.
- HHAs should notify local and state public health authorities about the presence of a person under investigation (PUI) for COVID-19.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

- HHAs should take actions to mitigate any resource shortages and show they are taking all appropriate steps to obtain the necessary supplies as soon as possible.
- If there is a shortage of PPE (e.g., due to supplier(s) shortage which may be a regional or national issue), HHAs should contact the appropriate local authorities notifying them of the shortage.
- HHAs should, follow national guidelines for optimizing their current supply, or identify the next best option to care for patients (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/respirators-strategy/index.html>).

The complete CMS Memo is posted on the IEHP Portal at:

www.iehp.org > For Providers > Plan Updates > Coronavirus (COVID-19) Advisory > CMS

As a reminder, all communications sent by IEHP can also be found on our Provider portal at:

www.iehp.org > For Providers > Plan Updates > Correspondence **or**

www.iehp.org > For Providers > Plan Updates > Coronavirus (COVID-19) Advisory.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the IEHP Provider Relations Team at (909) 890-2054.