



**California Department of Public Health
Center for Health Care Quality
AFC Skilled Nursing Facilities IP Call
August 20, 2020, 12:00 pm**

I: Questions & Answers:

Q: Question related to FDA-approval of flu vaccines. Any updates on if it will be finalized prior to flu season?

A: We have no updates on FDA timeline, however we do anticipate a lot of influenza vaccines to be made available in CA. We will be connecting facilities with resources throughout the state, for both residents and healthcare personnel.

Q: Question related to guidance and any efforts to streamline the process.

A: We acknowledge that guidelines are complex and constantly evolving. We want to encourage everyone to not hesitate to bring up these issues, so that we can continue to improve and focus alignment efforts. We are always learning everyday and appreciate the patience in fixing these issues.

Q: Wanted to follow up on daily reporting questions and if they will be updated for facilities?

A: Yes, this process will happen however we do not have a concrete timeline yet for when this will be complete.

Q: Follow up on Cal OSHA guidance for N95s and disinfecting.

A: We understand your concerns related to these changes; however, these are the new standards going forward. If these standards are hindering efforts in your respective communities, please contact Cal OSHA related to your specific shortages. We will follow up with the best contact information to use.

Q: Question on cohorting in yellow zone. Can staff assigned in observation/yellow unit cross over to normal/green zone or the opposite?

A: It's most important to be cognizant of staff dedicated to the red area. For this specific scenario discussed, staff can be permitted to move between. It is especially important to note that extended use of PPE should NEVER be practiced in this situation.

Q: Do observation zone staff need separate break rooms from other staff members?

A: This is not necessary. Only staff members in red zones require this.

Q: Question related to dialysis patients. When they return, do they need to be put in observation area?

A: Initially we recommended this, however these individuals will end up perpetually being in this area if this practice continues. They can be monitored and tested, and if they are a known-negative it is not necessary. We encourage facilities to develop strategies for dialysis patients specifically.

Q: Where can I find CDC guidance on healthcare facility workers and quarantine, if their family members are positive?

A: This can be found on the FAQ page for CDC. We will send out the link. Essentially, it says these individuals should be excluded from work for 14 days. What's important to note is if they can reasonably isolate in the household, otherwise the isolation would have to begin after the positive person goes through isolation themselves.

Q: Question related to hospital testing. What is the hospital protocol for testing, when are they allowed to rule out COVID testing?

A: This is a clinical determination and it is hard for us to comment on without more context.

Q: Question related to Cal OSHA guidance. The guidance on extended use respirators maximum wear time is in contradiction to CDC guidance. What takes priority?

A: Cal OSHA is the state regulatory body and takes precedence over the CDC.