



**California Department of Public Health
Center for Health Care Quality
AFC Skilled Nursing Facilities IP Call
September 3, 2020, 12:00 pm**

I: Questions & Answers:

Q: If respirators are used for shifts, can only one be used for a single shift even if taking on and off?

A: Yes, if they are not taken off more than five times in a single shift.

Q: Do we need to wear gowns at all in the green zone?

A: There may be times in the green zone that you may need a gown. It is important to use your best judgment in these situations and proceed with caution.

Q: Do we have to change PPE after performing activities such as showering and shaving?

A: For shaving and showering, that PPE will most likely become contaminated. The best practice is to assume that PPE is contaminated, and to dispose and change it.

Q: What are the protocols for screening residents?

A: For screening residents for symptoms of COVID-19, it is important to detect possible infections in residents. CDC recommends daily monitoring for residents. If any resident at any time have signs or symptoms of COVID-19, they should be tested immediately.

Q: Does CDPH require the use of a testing spreadsheet?

A: CMS's recent memo requires documentation of testing. If your spreadsheet includes all the necessary elements that your CDPH L&C office is looking for, then it should be enough.

Q: Can SNF residents leave the facility to get a haircut at a salon on the campus or can a stylist come into the facility?

A: This likely varies from each county depending on the restrictions. If the barber or hairstylist is complying with the guidance, then it should allow for this type of activity. These residents that receive these services could need more monitoring of symptoms. If the stylist is coming into the facility, then they should be tested and treated as a staff member or contractor.

Q: Is there any rule for standalone HEPA air filters for COVID-19?

A: We have not seen any specific recommendation in the CDC nursing home guidance. You could consider using these devices as an additional measure but discuss it with your environmental scientist.

Q: When does the 24 to 48 hour turnaround time start?

A: We interpret this as when you send the test results to the laboratory, how quickly do you get the results back.

Q: Due to SB 275, what PPE is required for healthcare workers? And due to spacing, is it okay to store PPE off-site?

A: Our policy team is looking at guidance for this, so stay tuned for that information.

Q: It appears that the CMS website is not aligning with the county reports, why is there a difference?

A: The CMS data will be less correct because it updates once a week, whereas the state data updates more often. So, these two data sources will not align; however, this will be addressed on the Tuesday morning call with an AFL.

Q: Do you know when CDPH will update the survey hub?

A: We recently updated the survey hub approximately a week ago, but it will be updated again. More information will likely be out on Tuesday.

Q: CDC announced that states should be ready to distribute the vaccine by the end of October, does CDPH recommend this?

A: We have created a Vaccine Task Force, which is discussing ways to disseminate the flu and COVID vaccine. We are actively in communication with the CDC on the timing of both flu and COVID vaccination.

Q: For visitation, there is some conflicting information. Can you provide some clarification on requirements for visitation?

A: We are allowing visitation. Even if there is a positive or an outbreak, there must be a way to have some sort of outdoor or large communal space for distanced visitation. For indoor visitation, there are specific criteria that facilities must meet to be allowed to have indoor visitation. There will be an update on the AFL to make it clearer.