Toolkit on State Actions to Mitigate COVID-19 Prevalence in Nursing Homes

December 2020 Version 16
Including recent information and guidance on vaccinations to prevent infection with influenza virus, pneumococcus, and SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19

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DISCLAIMER

This document is a compilation of actions employed by organizations, including state governments, in the United States and outlying territories to assist nursing homes in meeting the needs of nursing home residents since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic recognized in early 2020.

The actions were collected by the contractors of the QIO Program, a statutorily mandated program of quality improvement contractors who work for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to improve the care of Medicare beneficiaries, including beneficiaries who reside in nursing homes. By law, a QIO works in every state and territory.

This information was collected by the QIOs in late April 2020 and compiled by CMS and its contractors to provide a rapid-access compendium for providers and administrators of nursing homes in the United States to learn from the many creative plans that state governments and other entities have put into operation in a short period of time.

This compendium is not intended as guidance from CMS. It does not replace or serve as a substitute for CMS requirements and policy. The actions outlined in this document have not been evaluated for effectiveness by CMS or any government agency. **This compendium is solely an informational product offered by CMS to nursing homes as well as state and local officials during the National Public Health Emergency.**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

CMS wishes to thank the many health care providers, state government employees and organizations that generously contributed materials developed in the first and second quarters of 2020 to this toolkit. CMS also extends its sincere appreciation to the management, health care providers and staff members of the nursing homes who work tirelessly to provide the best care for this vulnerable population while acting to stop further transmission of the virus.

OBJECTIVE:

This toolkit catalogs the many innovative solutions designed at the state level to protect our nation's vulnerable nursing home residents during the Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. Beginning in October 2020, the toolkit includes up-to-date information, guidance, and innovative programs designed to increase vaccine use against influenza virus, pneumococcus (bacterium), and SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

STAKEHOLDERS WHO PROVIDED INPUT INCLUDE GOVERNORS' OFFICES AND GOVERNORS' COVID-19 TASK FORCES

- State affiliates of the American Health Care Association (AHCA)
- State affiliates of the American Hospital Association (AHA)
- LeadingAge state chapters
- State Bureaus of Health Provider Standards
- State and county Departments of Public Health
- State chapters of the Society for Post-Acute and Long-term Care Medicine (formerly AMDA)
- State and private universities
- Health facilities licensing and certification agencies
- State Departments of Epidemiology
- State long-term care Ombudsman offices
- State health care-acquired infection programs
- Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC) state chapters
- Nursing home corporations
- State accountable care organizations
- State telemedicine programs
- Area Agencies on Aging (AAA)
- The Veterans Health Administration
- U.S. corporations
- State Departments of Emergency Management
- State Infectious Diseases Associations
- State Departments of Aging
- State Medicaid programs
- CMS regional offices
- End-stage renal disease (ESRD) networks
- Governors' reopening task forces
- State health care coalitions for disaster response
- State Project ECHO programs
- State rural health associations
- American Medical Association (AMA) state chapters
- State primary care associations

ORGANIZATION OF THE DOCUMENT:

- This document has been optimized to help you find information quickly and easily. While the content is organized into sections, you may also rely on key word searches and the index to help you locate the information you need.
- Major categories include:
    - State actions for COVID-19 Management and Response, now including vaccinations
    - Telehealth
    - Organizations Available to Assist Nursing Homes
- State-specific information is included when available.
- The new vaccination section initially focuses on reliable sources of information available at the national level but will explore state-based innovative programs in subsequent editions, especially as vaccination against COVID-19 becomes more widely available. COVID-19 vaccination may require advanced strategies in the vaccine delivery system (such as dual-dose vaccines and complex "cold-chain management") that providers will need to master in order to be successful.
- When possible, references are given for the innovations, including links to contacts and resources for more information.

1. CLEANING/DISINFECTION

Alabama (AL)
Alabama Hospital Association, Alabama Department of Public Health
- Alabama has access to a Battelle Critical Care Decontamination Systems (CCDS)™ located in Birmingham. Hospitals, nursing homes, and other health care providers have been encouraged to send their N95 masks for decontamination, free of charge, including shipping. The unit can decontaminate 80,000 masks per day
https://www.alaha.org/initiating-battelle-n95-decontamination

Alliant Quality
- Alliant Quality developed the FROG (Friction Rubs Out Germs) Resource, including poster, to promote proper handwashing. Aliceville Manor Nursing Home in Aliceville, Alabama developed additional FROG posters to display across their facility and activity to reward staff with treats when they were seen washing their hands correctly
https://www.alliantquality.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/FROG-poster_12SOW-AHSQIN-QIO-TO1NH-20-171_508.pdf

Office of the Governor Kay Ivey
- Specially trained and equipped National Guard teams disinfect nursing homes that have COVID-19-positive residents. These teams will train staff on the techniques of donning and doffing personal protective equipment as well as sanitize and disinfect nursing homes that have COVID-19-positive residents and/or employees

Arizona (AZ)
Haven Health Group and Pioneer Health Group
- Uses a UV machine to disinfect face shields, N95 masks, iPads, nurse cart keys, and any other needed items
- Staff shower and change at the end of shifts in designated areas at the facility before leaving unit to reduce spread of COVID-19 in the community or at homes
- Use baby-nursery cameras in COVID-19-positive rooms to remotely monitor patients

California (CA)
Two Palm Nursing Center, Inc.
- Two Palms Nursing Center created an outside screening and infection prevention station for all health care workers (HCW) and visitors to utilize prior to allowing entrance into the facility. All HCWs and visitors entering the facility are screened one at a time for signs and symptoms of COVID-19
- Following the screening, they proceed to an outside "washing station" where they sanitize their hands and don personal protective equipment, including gowns, N95s and face shields. Prior to

entering the nursing home, they step on a bleaching mat to ensure they do not track in contaminants from the outside into the facility

Connecticut (CT)
Battelle CCDS Critical Care Decontamination System™
- Performs decontamination of the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) to address personal protective equipment (PPE) shortage (cleans up to 80,000 units/day)
- Offered free to health care personnel
- Provided in eight locations
  https://www.battelle.org/inb/battelle-ccds-for-covid19-satellite-locations

Georgia (GA)
Georgia Department of Public Health
- During a recent Georgia Department of Public Health COVID-19 update call, the director of nursing for a nursing home located in southeast Georgia shared its COVID-19 containment strategies. The facility has had no COVID-19 cases since March 2020:
  - Infection control practices started early to include temperatures of staff and residents
  - Isolation plans were implemented for residents coming from the hospital, dialysis, or other external sources
  - The facility conducted frequent staff education and requested that staff only work in its facility and not others
  - Open windows allow fresh air in the building and residents have outdoor time with social distancing
  - The National Guard has assisted with cleaning
  - The facility continually communicates with families on pandemic activities, including testing as required by the state of Georgia
  - Leadership is committed to keeping all lines of communication open with staff, residents, and families to contain travel and reduce public exposure for the protection of the residents and staff

Illinois (IL)
Health Care Council of Illinois (HCCI)
- Developed COVID-19 Resource page, updated daily with information regarding state and federal regulations, infection control, personal protective equipment (PPE), and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) information
- Prepares weekly member newsletters and email blasts on COVID-19 related resources and events throughout the state
  http://www.hccil.org/covid-19

Indiana (IN)
Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH)
- On July 23, 2020, COVID-19 the Long Term Care Facilities Infection Control Guidance and Standard Operating Procedure document was updated with information about removal from transmission-based precautions to align with July 17, 2020, guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for residents and healthcare personnel
  https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN_COVID-19%20LTC%20checklist%2007.23.20.pdf
- The Department is using a Battelle *Critical Care Decontamination System (*CCDS)™, which can

> disinfect up to 80,000 N95 masks. Along with hospitals, use of this system is extended to long term care facilities
> https://www.battelle.org/inb/battelle-critical-care-decontamination-system-for-covid19

- Indiana has distributed alcohol hand rub and five-gallon containers of COVID-19 cleaning solution to long term care facilities that have requested it
- ISDH released the Environmental Steps to Reduce Indoor COVID-19 Transmission, with recommendations and resources for facilities to follow to minimize the risk of virus transmission through indoor airflows
  https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN_COVID-19%20environmental%20steps%206.19.20.pdf

Iowa (IA)
GRX Holdings, LLC
- GRx Pharmacies have helped a facility proactively set up an isolation unit, providing med cart, treatment cart and are waiting on a board of pharmacy waiver to provide a separate emergency kit for the unit
  https://www.grxholdings.com

Kansas (KS)
BioKansas: The Bioscience Network in Kansas
- BioKansas website contains a listing of regional companies that are currently taking orders for critical supplies (i.e., testing and personal protective equipment)
  https://biokansas.org/?page_id=639

*K*ansas Department of Health & Environment (KDHE)
- The KDHE Healthcare-Associated Infections & Antimicrobial Resistance Program has created a health care facility cleaning and disinfection guide

Louisiana (LA)
Ferncrest Manor Living Center
- Implemented an intervention for hand hygiene compliance that goes beyond the standard auditing. Developed an empowering technique called Secret Soap Spy as a fun, engaging way for staff to remind each other and to correctly perform the CDC-recommended hand hygiene elements. Staff are rewarded with praise and recognition if they get a "perfection" sticker from a secret spy

Massachusetts (MA)
Battelle Critical Care Decontamination System (CCDS)™
- Performs decontamination of the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) to address the personal protective equipment (PPE) shortage (cleans up to 80,000 units/day)
  https://www.battelle.org/inb/battelle-ccds-for-covid19-satellite-locations

Minnesota (MN)
Minnesota Department of Health (MDH)
- MDH posted a new document to their website, "Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning, and Fan Considerations for Long Term Care During COVID-19." This document provides guidance to long term care facilities on the proper control of air flow and ventilation (e.g., increasing air dilution, filtration, and directional air flows) to prevent transmission of COVID-19 (and other respiratory viruses) among residents and staff
https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/hcp/hvac.pdf

Mississippi (MS)
Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA)
- MEMA is providing cleaning services for long term care facilities. A subject-matter expert is also available to perform assessments. Interested facilities are contacting their county emergency management agency
https://www.msema.org/county-ema
- Battelle Critical Care Decontamination System (CCDS)™ provides access to free N95 sterilization for health care facilities
https://www.battelle.org/inb/battelle-critical-care-decontamination-system-for-covid19

Montana (MT)
The State of Montana
- Montana is using the Battelle Critical Care Decontamination System (CCDS)™ to perform decontamination of the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) to address the personal protective equipment (PPE) shortage (cleans up to 80,000 units/day)
https://www.battelle.org/inb/battelle-critical-care-decontamination-system-for-covid19

New Mexico (NM)
New Mexico Department of Health
- The Department of Health Improvement (DHI) is conducting virtual audits using video to verify the cleaning protocols and use of personal protective equipment (PPE) in nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and immediate care facilities
- A review of all infection control procedures in all nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, skilled nursing facilities, and immediate care facilities was ordered
- New Mexico has contracted with cleaning company to clean all nursing homes in the state
- Specially trained and equipped National Guard teams disinfect nursing homes that have COVID-19-positive residents. These teams will train staff on the techniques of donning and doffing PPE as well as sanitize and disinfect nursing homes that have COVID-19-positive residents and/or employees
- The Battelle Critical Care Decontamination System (CCDS)™ is used to perform decontamination of the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) to address the PPE shortage (cleans up to 80,000 units/day)
https://www.battelle.org/inb/battelle-ccds-for-covid19-satellite-locations
- Find current statistics and guidance on COVID-19 from the New Mexico Department of Health at the below link.
https://cv.nmhealth.org

North Dakota (ND)
CHI St. Alexius Health - Garrison, ND
- Facility places contact time for cleaning and disinfecting products in large numbers on side of each bottle to keep that time more present in the mind of those using the products

North Dakota Department of Health
- Awarded a Battelle Critical Care Decontamination System™ to help address the current shortage of N95 respirators
  https://www.health.nd.gov/battelle-critical-care-decontamination

Ohio (OH)
Office of the Governor Mike DeWine
- Instrumental in expediting approval for Battelle Critical Care Decontamination System (CCDS)™
- Performs decontamination of the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) to address personal protective equipment (PPE) shortage (cleans up to 80,000 units/day)
- Offered free to health care personnel

Ohio Department of Health
- Web page offers suggestions for preventive cleaning against COVID-19 if everyday supplies, such as cleaning wipes or cleaning sprays, run out
  https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/checklists/english-checklists/cleaning-disinfecting-alternatives-covid-19-checklist

Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Department of Medicaid, Ohio Department of Aging, Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
- Includes practical tips for cleaning and disinfecting within the COVID-19 Long Term Services and Support (LTSS) Pre-Surge Planning Toolkit
  https://medicaid.ohio.gov/COVID/Long-Term-Services-and-Support

Oklahoma (OK)
Oklahoma Assisted Living Association
- Posts recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to prepare for COVID-19 in long term care facilities and nursing homes
- Provides additional interim guidance for infection prevention and control
- Hosts links to COVID-19 resources, such as a COVID-19 checklist, sample letters to families, volunteers and friends, and CDC and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services updates
  https://www.okala.org

South Dakota (SD)
Jenkins Living Center – Watertown
- During the month of July 2020, the South Dakota Department of Health's COVID-19: Hand Hygiene video was streamed in the Jenkins Living Center employee breakroom big screen monitor several times throughout the day as a reminder for all staff https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dEubiD7bjaQ&feature=youtu.be

Texas (TX)
Office of the Governor Greg Abbott
- On May 5, 2020 at the Governor's direction, the Texas Military Department activated 250 Texas National Guard personnel in support of nursing facilities, with additional activations to meet mission demand. These Guardsmen formed teams to disinfect COVID-19 contaminated care facilities. Teams are based across Texas and are serving the eight Emergency Medical Task Force regions https://gov.texas.gov/news/post/governor-abbott-expands-business-openings-in-texas-announces-surge-response-teams-to-combat-covid-19

Utah (UT)
State of Utah
- Created an official YouTube account, Utah Coronavirus, for COVID-19 response and information. A new set of video resources are available, including the "Protect Yourself" video playlist that includes tips for self-isolation, proper mask wearing, hand hygiene and more https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLa8O8Iicbk0umwGmBF323D-Iv0m2TIbjC

Virginia (VA)
Laurels of University Park
- Provided all environmental services staff with laminated daily and terminal room cleaning checklists. They can keep them on their carts and use as reference to ensure all cleaning steps were completed. Because they are laminated, they will use dry erase markers and disinfect between rooms

Virginia Department of Health (VDH)
- VDH released guidelines for cleaning and disinfection for SARS-CoV-2 https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/182/2020/05/4_VDH_Cleaning_and_disinfection_tips_for_COVID_04222020.pdf

West Virginia (**WV)**
Princeton Health Care Center
- Princeton Health Care Center is working with engineers on air circulation and filtration amidst their current COVID-19 outbreak. On August 8, 2020, they reported additional interventions to slow the circulation of air while maintaining acceptable temperature ranges. They have also increased interventions related to filtration

Alabama (AL)
Office of the Governor Kay Ivey
- Amended the "Safer at Home Order" until December 11, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.
https://governor.alabama.gov/assets/2020/11/GKI-2020-Health-Order-Update-Dec-11-Horizontal.pdf

Alaska (AK)
Alaska Department of Health and Human Services
- Receives updates and guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which is shared through the Alaska Public Health Alert Network (PHAN) to local health officials
https://covid19.alaska.gov/health-mandates

Arizona (AZ)
Office of the Governor Doug Ducey
- An Executive Order was issued to strengthen protection in residential and nursing care facilities by mandating reporting of COVID-19 positive cases in nursing homes
https://azgovernor.gov/governor/news/2020/04/governor-ducey-issues-executive-order-strengthening-protection-residential-and

The Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS)
- The ADHS released reporting guidance for facilities performing laboratory tests for COVID-19, including facilities using point-of-care devices such as FDA-authorized antigen diagnostic tests. The guidance follows a governor's executive order and requires facilities to report both positive and negative results for COVID-19 directly to ADHS within 24 hours. To assist long term care facilities, ADHS' guidance outlines the reporting process, how to enroll in the state system, and key considerations for establishing an efficient testing and reporting process
https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/AZDHS/2020/09/10/file_attachments/1542573/Reporting%20Guidance%20for%20Facilities%20using%20Point-Of-Care%20Devices%20to%20Test%20for%20COVID-19%20in%20Arizona.pdf

Arkansas (AR)
Arkansas Department of Human Services (DHS) Office of Long Term Care (OLTC)
- The state Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) is collaborating with Cecelia Vinson, Director OLTC, on National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) COVID-19 reporting and enrollment assistance
  - OLTC will refer nursing homes to the QIO for any assistance needed
  https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/ltc/covid19/index.html

California (CA)
California Department of Public Health (CDPH)
- Provides resources for skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) on preventing, detecting, and preparing for COVID-19 in a toolkit titled "Preparing for COVID-19 in California Skilled Nursing Facilities"
https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/CDPH%20Document%20Library/AFL-20-25-Attachment-01-SNF-Checklist.pdf

- CDPH released an All Facilities Letter (AFL 20-43) on May 13, 2020, requiring all skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) to report daily updates regarding current staffing levels, the number of COVID-19 patients, and equipment availability to CDPH via an online survey. This reporting is to ensure that California has the information necessary to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak and to provide resources and support to SNFs. To meet the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reporting requirements, CDPH modified their daily online survey to include the questions required by CDC via National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/Pages/AFL-20-43.aspx

Florida (FL)
Florida Department of Health
- Provides daily data updates for the number of positive cases, tests performed, deaths, number of long term care facilities with positive cases, number of persons under investigation, and other information
https://floridahealthcovid19.gov

Georgia (GA)
Georgia Department of Community Health
- The Georgia Department of Community Health has added the number of resident recoveries to its daily Long Term Care COVID-19 Facility Report
https://dch.georgia.gov/announcement/2020-06-19/long-term-care-facility-covid-19-report

Georgia Healthcare Facility Regulation Department
- Worked closely with the Georgia Department of Health, Georgia Health Care Association, and the Georgia National Guard to stay abreast of COVID-19 activity and the impact on centers
- Provides website updates with changes in rules and regulations, contact information, and a nurse aide program temporary waiver for staffing
- Surveyors have been connecting with long term care organizations, collecting information related to COVID-19 and coordinating with the National Guard to develop a system for collection of COVID-19 data
- The data collection platform will update the public daily at 2 PM, replacing a previous report from the Governor's Office
https://dch.georgia.gov/divisionsoffices/healthcare-facility-regulation

Illinois (IL)
Health Care Council of Illinois (HCCI)
- Developed COVID-19 Resource page, updated daily with information regarding state and federal regulations, infection control, personal protective equipment (PPE), and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) information
- Prepares weekly member newsletters and email blasts on COVID-19 related resources and events throughout the state
http://www.hccil.org/covid-19

Illinois Department of Public Health

- Issued COVID-19 safety guidance for nursing home residents and employees (e.g., screening and reporting symptoms), as well as visitation restrictions on March 20, 2020 http://www.dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/diseases-and-conditions/diseases-a-z-list/coronavirus/long-term-care-guidance
- Illinois Department of Public Health released region by region contact tracing data. This data can help inform nursing homes with planning for indoor visits. This website will be updated weekly http://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/contact-tracing

Indiana (IN)
Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH)
- ISDH released updated guidance concerning the historical reporting of COVID-19 cases and deaths, the new REDCap survey used to capture cases and deaths within 24 hours beginning July 14th, clarification on aggregate facility-level reporting and NHSN submissions, and a request for all long term care facilities to complete a survey regarding their EHR vendor https://www.ihca.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/LTC_Facilities_7_11_20.pdf
- ISDH issued clear guidelines for facilities so they can correctly and accurately submit COVID-19 data regarding their residents and staff. Importantly, the document announced that nursing facilities with SAMS Level 3 Access to National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) no longer have to report COVID-19 point of care (POC) test results to the state through the RedCaps Survey for POC test results, so long as those POC test results are reported through NHSN. However, until a nursing facility obtains SAMS Level 3 Access and reports POC test results to NHSN, the nursing facility must continue to report via the RedCaps Survey for POC test results https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/INSDH/2020/10/29/file_attachments/1584487/LTC%20Data%20Submission%20Guidelines%20-%20Update%202%20-%202020.10.29.pdf
- Released Long Term Care (LTC) Facility COVID-19 Data Submission Guidelines on October 29, 2020, which includes clear guidelines to LTC facilities for correctly and accurately submitting data regarding residents and staff https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN_COVID-19%20LTC%20Data%20Submission%20Guidelines%2010.29.20.pdf

Iowa (IA)
Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals
- Fields individual nursing home questions specific to survey or regulation, created a website FAQ document for support on common questions, and provides 1135 waiver guidance. During surveys, the Department encourages nursing homes to reach out to the Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) or Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) for support https://dia.iowa.gov/about/novel-coronavirus-covid-19

Iowa Department of Public Health
- Website houses multiple resources for COVID-19 guidance and long term care recorded webinars
- Conducts support webinars with ample Q&A time
- Manages hotline and individual nursing home assistance via email
- Provides support through emergency response team available (for example, personal protective equipment [PPE] supply)
- Create guidance documents for state specific requirements and reporting support https://idph.iowa.gov/Emerging-Health-Issues/Novel-Coronavirus/Long-Term-Care

Iowa Long Term Care Ombudsman
- Provides individual nursing home support for advocacy of needs at resident level
- Supports residents and families with concerns
- Encourages nursing homes to reach out to the Quality Improvement Organization, the Department of Inspections and Appeals (DIA), and the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) for support
- Website houses multiple resources
  https://www.iowaaging.gov/educational-resources/covid-19-older-iowans

LeadingAge of Iowa
- Provides individual technical assistance; a weekly conference call; regular member newsletters; survey and regulatory guidance; and a website housing multiple COVID-19 topics
  https://www.leadingageiowa.org/covid-19

Kansas (KS)
Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE)
- The Healthcare-Associated Infections & Antimicrobial Resistance Program released the Infection Prevention and Control Preparation Guide for Long-Term Care and Other Residential Facilities in Kansas
  https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/DocumentCenter/View/979/LTCF-COVID-19-Preparedness-PDF---5-14-2020
- KDHE developed a Response and Containment Guide for Long Term Care and Other Residential Facilities in Kansas. The guide was updated October 29, 2020 to include guidance on monitoring, reporting, and testing cases; personal protective equipment (PPE); and new testing strategies
  https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/DocumentCenter/View/982/LTCFs-COVID-19-Response-and-Containment-PDF---10-29-20

Kentucky (KY)
Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services
- Issued guidance titled, "Provider Guidance Update: Phased Reduction of Restrictions for Long Term Care Facilities." The guidance includes information about resuming group activities and communal dining. Beginning September 25, 2020, the two key determinants for resuming recreational and therapeutic group activities and communal dining for all long term care facilities should be 1) adhering to established social distancing guidelines of at least six feet between any two residents and 2) no new resident or staff COVID-19 cases within the past 14 days
  https://chfs.ky.gov/cv19/LTCFGuidancePhasedRestoration.pdf
- On November 16, 2020, the Cabinet for Health and Family Services provided updated guidance on the phased reduction of restrictions for long term care facilities. This included links to the two (normalized at 100k population) incidence maps in play (one for testing frequency updated bi-weekly and one for visitation to be checked weekly)
  https://chfs.ky.gov/cv19/LTCFGuidancePhasedRestoration.pdf

Office of the Governor Andy Beshear
- On October 26, 2020, Governor Andy Beshear reported 953 COVID-19 cases in Kentucky and issued new red zone reduction recommendations to stop COVID-19 spread and protect

Kentuckians in the 55 counties currently in the red zone. Hospitalizations and deaths are also increasing nationally and in Kentucky. New red zone recommendations provide direction on how communities can come together to defeat COVID-19. Red zone counties are those with 25 or more average daily cases of COVID-19 per 100,000 residents. Red zone counties are updated daily on the incidence rate map on the kycovid19.ky.gov web page

- The Governor said when a county turns red, we are already asking schools to go virtual, we ask for sports to pause and we restrict visitation in long term care facilities
- Red Zone Reduction Recommendations:
  - Employers should allow employees to work from home when possible
  - Government offices that do not provide critical services need to operate virtually
  - Reduce in-person shopping; order online or pickup curbside as much as possible
  - Order take-out; avoid dining in restaurants or bars
  - Prioritize businesses that follow and enforce the mask mandate and other guidelines
  - Reschedule, postpone, or cancel public events
  - Do not host or attend gatherings of any size
  - Avoid non-essential activities outside your home
  - Reduce overall activity and contacts, and follow existing guidance
    https://chfs.ky.gov/News/Documents/nrredzonerecommendations.pdf

Michigan (MI)
Michigan Long Term Care Ombudsman Program (MLTCOP)
- MLTCOP conducts Frequently Asked Questions: Nursing Homes and COVID-19 weekly calls to respond to questions from family and friends of residents in nursing homes, adult foster care, and homes for the aged. Summaries of the questions and answers are posted on the website https://mltcop.org/coronavirus

Office of the Governor Gretchen Whitmer, University of Michigan
- Governor Gretchen Whitmer's MI Safe Start Plan outlines how we will begin to re-engage while continuing to keep our communities safe. Re-engagement will happen in phases. Businesses that are necessary to protect and sustain life are already open. As we move into lower-risk phases, additional business categories will re-open and the restrictions on public gatherings and social interactions will ease
  https://www.mistartmap.info

Minnesota (MN)
Minnesota Association for Geriatrics Inspired Clinicians (MAGIC) Clinical Practice Alliance Committee (CPAC)
- Released "Managing COVID-19: A Guide for Skilled Nursing Facilities and Assisted Living Settings"

Minnesota Department of Health (MDH)
- MDH introduced new RedCap survey to share COVID-19 positive test results. Facilities are to use this survey when a positive COVID-19 case is confirmed. Usually the assigned MDH case manager will send the survey link to the facility, but providers are also encouraged to utilize the tool prior to a case manager being assigned
  https://redcap-c19.web.health.state.mn.us/redcap/surveys/?s=H8MT9TTNCD

Mississippi (MS)
Mississippi Division of Medicaid
- Released the Civil Money Penalty (CMP) Reinvestment Application Template: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Communicative Technology Request https://medicaid.ms.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/COVID-19_Amended-Application-Template__Final_508_20200428.pdf

Mississippi State Department of Health
- Partner with Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) Licensure & Certification with frequent contact
- Provide consultation to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in nursing homes
- Assist with personal protective equipment (PPE) attainment
- Nursing homes with COVID-19 cases receive daily follow-up
- Provides a table by county of Mississippi COVID-19 cases in long term care facilities https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/14,0,420.html

Mississippi State Department of Health, Office of Epidemiology
- Long term care facilities are required to report COVID-19 cases to Mississippi State Department of Health. Mississippi State Department of Health collaborates with the facility administrators to ensure that appropriate prevention measures are being taken

Missouri (MO)
The Quality Improvement Program for Missouri (QIPMO)
- QIPMO is a cooperative service between the University of Missouri Sinclair School of Nursing and the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. It is composed of gerontological nurses who provide education on state actions to improve care delivery and outcomes for nursing home residents

Montana (MT)
Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services
- Receives daily updates and guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which is shared through the state's Health Alert Network to local health officials. At the link below, scroll down and select 2020 HAN Messages. https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/han#1514810139-2020-han-messages
- The Department, in collaboration with the Mountain Pacific Quality Health Organization, is providing technical assistance and support to nursing home facilities regarding reporting to the National Healthcare Surveillance Network (NHSN) system

Mountain-Pacific Quality Health, Montana State Department of Health Epidemiology
- Mountain-Pacific Quality Health Data Analyst Tom Vincent answers questions about National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) reporting and assists with the process to ease reporting for nursing homes. Videos of the May 18, 2020 and June 1, 2020 office hours are available on the Mountain Pacific website by following the link and clicking on NHSN https://www.mpqhf.org/QIO/quality-improvement-tools-resources/nursing-home-quality-improvement-tools-resources

Nebraska (NE)
Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

- In response to the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak occurring in Nebraska and across the country, Nebraska Medicaid will be hosting regular conference calls each month at 9:30 AM Central Time to provide updates on response to COVID-19. See the webpage below for a link to subscribe for updates which announce upcoming calls. To join the call: (877) 399-0501, Attendee Code: 8559164#
  http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Medicaid-Providers.aspx

New Jersey (NJ)
Office of the Governor Phil Murphy
- On September 16, 2020, the governor signed a legislative package to address systemic challenges, mitigate the impact of COVID-19, and strengthen preparedness for future outbreaks. The package enacts several recommendations made in Manatt Health's rapid review of the state's long term care (LTC) facilities, including wage enhancements for frontline staff, improved response coordination, and robust data reporting procedures. The package includes bills to establish:
  - A LTC emergency operations center to direct resources and communications during public health emergencies and
  - A New Jersey Task Force on LTC Quality and Safety
    https://nj.gov/governor/news/news/562020/approved/20200916b.shtml

New Jersey Department of Health (NJDH)
- NJDH released an updated version to the Outbreak Management Checklist for COVID-19 in Nursing Homes and other Post-Acute Care Settings. This checklist covers a wide array of areas to address when dealing with an outbreak, including Communications, Control Measures, Transfers, Infection Prevention and Control, Resident Management, and Staff Management.
  https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/COVID_Outbreak_Management_Checklist.pdf
- Long term care facilities in New Jersey are required to report COVID-19 cases to their local health departments

New Jersey COVID-19 Information HUB
- Website provides county-based data dashboard, COVID-19 frequently asked questions, jobs portal, symptom checks, and state based updates
  https://covid19.nj.gov

New York (NY)
New York State Department of Health, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
- Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health built an online educational program for contact tracing
  https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/ami%20d-ongoing-covid-19-pandemic-governor-%20cuomo-and-mayor-mike-bloomberg-%20launch-nation-leading

New York State Department of Health, Office of the Governor Andrew Cuomo

- On October 6, Governor Cuomo announced the "Cluster Action Initiative" to address COVID-19 clusters throughout the state. The state worked with top public health experts to develop a science-based approach to contain the virus by directly targeting areas with highest concentration of cases. The initiative will divide clusters and surrounding areas into three categories with successively higher restrictions: red (cluster zone), orange (warning zone), and yellow (precaution zone). The new rules are in effect for a minimum of 14 days
  - The initiative is composed of three steps: 1) reduce in-person activities and interactions within the cluster; 2) take action in the area surrounding the cluster to stop the spread; and 3) take precautionary action in the outlying communities
    https://forward.ny.gov/cluster-action-initiative

- The plan re-opens the region in four phases based in two-week time frames, based on the following criteria:
  - Decline in total hospitalizations
  - Decline in deaths
  - New Hospitalizations
  - Hospital Bed Capacity
  - ICU Bed Capacity
  - Diagnostic Testing Capacity
  - Contact Tracing Capacity
    https://forward.ny.gov/regional-monitoring-dashboard

North Carolina (NC)
North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS)
- NCDHHS recently updated the state's online COVID-19 dashboard to include average turnaround time for COVID-19 testing. Located on the testing page, the graph shows the average daily turnaround time based on data from all laboratories that report electronically to NCDHHS. https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/dashboard/testing
- Statewide Standing Order for COVID-19 Diagnostic Testing and Reporting adopted on July 7, 2020
  https://files.nc.gov/covid/documents/guidance/healthcare/COVID-19-Statewide-Standing-Order.pdf
- NCDHHS released, "What to Expect: Response to New COVID-19 Cases or Outbreaks in Long Term Care Settings" on September 4, 2020. The resource captures relevant actions a nursing home should take when encountering new COVID infections
  https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/slowcovidnc
- On October 27, 2020, NCDHHS provided an update to the COVID-19 guidance for North Carolina clinicians and laboratories which includes:
  - Updated information and guidance on social gatherings
  - Updated information on who should be tested for COVID-19
  - Updated information on assessment of patients with acute respiratory illness symptoms when SARSCoV-2 and influenza viruses are both circulating
    https://files.nc.gov/covid/documents/guidance/healthcare/COVID-19-Provider-Guidance-Final.pdf
- NCDHHS has provided guidance on outbreak response support in their long term care toolkit
  https://files.nc.gov/covid/documents/guidance/healthcare/Long-Term-Care-Outbreak-Toolkit-Instructions.pdf

- NCDHHS endorsed use and posted the COVID-19 Long Term Care Infection Control Assessment and Response (ICAR) Tool for Local Health Departments
https://files.nc.gov/covid/documents/guidance/healthcare/Long-Term-Care-Infection-Control-Assessment-Tool.pdf
- October 27, 2020, NCDHHS released a memo with guidance pertaining to:
  - Updated information and guidance on social gatherings
  - Updated information on who should be tested for COVID-19
  - Updated information on assessment of patients with acute respiratory illness symptoms when SARSCoV-2 and influenza viruses are both circulating
https://files.nc.gov/covid/documents/guidance/healthcare/COVID-19-Provider-Guidance-Final.pdf
- Providers serve an important role in connecting eligible residents to available isolation and quarantine support. This fact sheet gives an overview of what support is available to help eligible residents in target counties to safely isolate/quarantine and what providers can do to connect residents to available resources
https://files.nc.gov/covid/documents/info-for/health-care/NCDHHS-Support-Services-Testing-and-Contact-Tracing-Fact-Sheet.pdf

Ohio (OH)
American Health Care Association (AHCA)
- The Accepting Admissions AHCA Policy provides guidance to skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) to help make decisions about accepting hospital discharges to SNFs
https://www.ahcancal.org/facility_operations/disaster_planning/Documents/SNF-Admit-Transfer-COVID19.pdf

Office of the Governor Mike DeWine
- Governor DeWine's web page announces any new changes to public policy as it pertains to COVID-19 and nursing homes. It also directs visitors to Ohio Department of Health's COVID-19 website that provides the latest data on COVID-19. Some of this data does specifically pertain to Ohio's nursing homes
https://governor.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/governor

Ohio Department of Aging
- Created the following resources:
  - Caring for Residents with Dementia During the COVID-19 Outbreak: Provides specific guidance on caring of residents with dementia while requiring social distancing
https://aging.ohio.gov/wps/wcm/connect/gov/41a0bffe-2fbe-4030-83f6-f21056a4d561/covid-caregiver-checklist-2-dementia-care.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CVID=n4ioIj5
  - COVID-19 Education for Residents and their Families: Simple one-page document explains what residents and families can do for COVID-19
https://aging.ohio.gov/wps/wcm/connect/gov/edcf1bfa-745d-422f-ad89-f2d179e1fbae/COVID-19-Information-for-ltc-residents.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CVID=n4ir1lN

Ohio Health Care Association

- Fact sheet lists the various ways nursing homes must report test results to both government agencies and notification of families. Fact sheet provides direct links to report entities for ease of access. Scroll and select "COVID Reporting Document" https://www.ohca.org/admin/covid19_1

State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy
- The Ohio Board of Pharmacy temporarily expanded multi-dose packaged prescriptions from a maximum 31-day fill to a 60-day fill, which will decrease pharmacy deliveries to nursing homes. This will reduce COVID-19 exposure from outside visitors and will also ensure that nursing home residents have sufficient medications during the pandemic https://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/Documents/Pubs/Special/COVID19Resources/Temporary%20Expansion%20of%20the%20Maximum%20Days%20Supply%20for%20Multidose%20Packaging.pdf

Oregon (OR)
Department of Human Services (DHS), Social Security Administration (SSA)
- DHS and the SSA have partnered to develop facility assessment requests from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) that are similar to aid in reporting

Pennsylvania (PA)
Pennsylvania Department of Health
- The Department of Health has shared COVID-19 resources https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx
- State Registrar Notices include guidance on mandatory electronic reporting to the Bureau of Health Statistics and Registries of deaths caused or suspected to be caused by COVID-19 https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/Reporting-Registries/Pages/State-Registrar-Notices.aspx

Tennessee (TN)
Tennessee Department of Health
- The Weekly Long Term Facility COVID-19 Update Call is held every Wednesday at 11:00 CT/Noon ET. It includes updates on outbreak numbers, reporting/testing updates, available resources, and a Q&A section https://tngov.webex.com/webappng/sites/tngov/meeting/download/93a8c91dda8e4cd38ddeb3eebc61618f?siteurl=tngov&MTID=m7ff6bbba2d9c9a0e27657ec4cde4f009

Tennessee Department of Health (TDOH), Tennessee COVID-19 Unified-Command
- On September 17, 2020, TDOH and Tennessee COVID-19 Unified-Command announced three new initiatives, including expanded visitation options, enhanced resident interactions, and a new Tennessee COVID-19 Long Term Care Task Force https://www.tn.gov/health/news/2020/9/17/tennessee-launches-new-initiatives-for-long-term-care-facility-residents.html

The Middle Tennessee Regional Healthcare Quality Improvement Collaborative Communication Coalition
- The Middle Tennessee Regional Healthcare Quality Improvement Collaborative Communication Coalition, a coalition working with Alliant Health Services, formed a task force that meets every other Thursday with representation from multiple counties in the Nashville area. Nursing

homes, assisted living centers, the Mayor's office, and the Tennessee Department of Health are represented. They are working together to coordinate Personal Protective Equipment, testing, and National Healthcare Safety Network needs, such as assistance needed for enrollment and/or reporting in the COVID-19 module. Providers in the area network to invite other providers. A Senior Quality Advisor at AHS, Julie Clark, julie.clark@allianthealth.org, is available to assist connection with this coalition

Texas (TX)
The Academy of Medicine, Engineering and Science of Texas (TAMEST)
- Experts discuss what the science says about the spread of COVID-19 in Texas and steps officials and individuals can take to mitigate the outbreak in the state. The moderator was Peter J. Hotez, MD, PhD (NAM), Dean for the National School of Tropical Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine. Speakers included Rebecca Fischer, PhD, Assistant Professor of Epidemiology & Biostatistics, Texas A&M University, and Lauren Ancel Meyers, PhD, Professor of Integrative Biology, The University of Texas at Austin
https://tamest.org/digital-conversations

Texas Department of Health and Human Services
- Developed a nursing home COVID-19 response plan, which incorporates direction from state and federal agencies into an easy-to-use set of instructions for prevention of COVID-19 and actions to prioritize and initiate when there is a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case. It includes an easy-to-remember acronym of S.P.I.C.E. (see page 18). This document is updated regularly as guidance changes
https://hhs.texas.gov/sites/default/files/documents/doing-business-with-hhs/provider-portal/long-term-care/nf/covid-response-nursing-facilities.pdf
- On July 27, 2020, the Texas Health and Human Services Commission began to electronically post to its website COVID-19 case counts and deaths by facility name for state supported living centers, state hospitals, and state licensed nursing and assisted living facilities. They can be found in separate downloadable Excel files. The data is updated Monday through Friday by 3:00 PM Central Time, except state holidays. All data is provisional and subject to change.
https://hhs.texas.gov/services/health/coronavirus-covid-19

Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC)
- On September 9, 2020, the Texas HHSC released the Long-Term Care Regulatory Provider Letter outlining provider reporting requirements related to COVID-19 positive cases and deaths. The letter instructs all nursing, assisted living, and intermediate care facilities to report the first confirmed case of COVID-19 in staff or residents to the health authority with jurisdiction over the facility or directly to the Texas HHSC. Requirements include reporting:
  - The first confirmed case of COVID-19 in staff or residents after a facility has been without cases for 14 days or more
  - All suspected and confirmed COVID19 cases (including residents, staff, and previously treated cases) to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (via the National Healthcare Safety Network) on a weekly basis
  - Three or more residents/staff with new-onset respiratory symptoms occurring within 72 hours to residents, their representative, and families
  https://apps.hhs.texas.gov/providers/communications/2020/letters/PL2020-37.pdf

Utah (UT)

State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response
2. Reporting/Guidance/Mandated Reporting Continued

Office of the Governor Gary Herbert
- The state of Utah has implemented a color-coded statewide health guidance system to guide health behaviors for individuals and businesses. Each level of the dial is guided by a rigorous measurement system for each region, county, city or community https://coronavirus.utah.gov/utahs-health-guidance-system
- The Utah COVID-19 task force developed a COVID-19 Business Manual for Utah businesses. This is a step by step plan from the Utah Department of Health created to prevent the spread of COVID-19. This guide provides guidance that can be used throughout the pandemic for any business and has current recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and U.S. Department of Labor https://coronavirus-download.utah.gov/business/COVID-19_Business_Packet_FIN.pdf

Utah COVID Task Force
- Shared guidelines for non-essential travel for communities https://coronavirus.utah.gov/travel

Virginia (VA)
Office of the Governor Ralph Northam
- Posted November 13, 2020, on the VDOH website, Governor Northam announced new statewide measures to contain COVID-19. https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/blog/2020/11/13/governor-northam-announces-new-statewide-measures-to-contain-covid-19/

Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association (VHHA)
- VHHA launched a nursing home dashboard with statistics associated with COVID-19 cases in licensed nursing facilities. The dashboard is updated daily with information nursing facilities voluntarily submit via the Virginia Healthcare Alerting and Status System (VHASS) related to:
- Confirmed and pending resident COVID-19 cases
- The number of residents who have recovered from COVID-19
- Challenges in obtaining specific types of personal protective equipment (PPE) https://www.vhha.com/communications/virginia-licensed-nursing-facility-covid-19-dashboard

Virginia Health Care Association–Virginia Center for Assisted Living (VHCA-VCAL)
- VHCA-VCAL created a Timeline for COVID-19 Regulations and Guidance that provides a color coded timeline of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), and state-issued guidance and related updates or revisions https://www.vhca.org/files/2020/05/Timeline-for-COVID-19-Regulation-and-Guidance-05112020.pdf

Washington (WA)
Washington State Department of Health
- Updated recommendations for long term care facilities with sample visitor announcements, employee callout logs and outdoor visitation guidelines for facilities https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/COVID19/HealthcareProviders/LongTermCareFacilities

West Virginia (WV)
Stonerise Healthcare Corporation

- This corporation of nursing homes developed its own reporting page related to COVID-19 that listed its nursing homes along with location, current patients, and number of negative and positive COVID-19 patients in each facility. The corporation also schedules tele-visits with residents for family members
http://www.stonerisehealthcare.com/coronavirus-update

West Virginia Department of Health and Human Services, West Virginia Health Care Association
- Offers guidelines for COVID-19 outbreaks in long term care facilities through its website, including:
  - Contact precautions
  - Hand hygiene observation tool
  - Long term care facility outbreak resources toolkit
- Outlines provider responsibility for reporting requirements for suspected or confirmed cases
- Provides general information on West Virginia resources, including medical transport guidelines
- Developed guidelines for COVID-19 outbreaks in long term care facilities. Topics include:
  - Outbreak definitions
  - Preventing an outbreak
  - What to do if a case is detected
  - Measures to control the outbreak
  - Lab testing
  - Health care personnel exposure
  - Management of residents returning from hospitalization or new admissions
  - Criteria to remove residents from isolation
    https://dhhr.wv.gov/COVID-19/Pages/default.aspx

3. TESTING

Alabama (AL)

Office of the Governor Kay Ivey
- An Alabama state based COVID-19 taskforce is maintaining a website which provides a wide variety of helpful COVID-19 information, including testing sites, news, and resources. The website is intended to also connect businesses, nonprofits, and people that need help with the right program partners and to connect program partners with people and resources to help those most in need
  https://covid19.alabama.gov

United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
- HHS is sending rapid point of care testing instruments to several Alabama nursing homes based on priority. Nursing homes are being prioritized by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services through data sources that consider epidemiological hot spots, availability of testing, and COVID-19 rates within nursing homes. The following link provides a downloadable file with details about the device allocation
  https://data.cms.gov/Special-Programs-Initiatives-COVID-19-Nursing-Home/Nursing-Home-Data-Point-of-Care-Device-Allocation/jbvf-tb74

Arizona (AZ)

Arizona Department of Health Services
- Released COVID-19 diagnostic testing recommendations for long term care facilities providing guidance on the types of tests and testing frequency. The document offers insight into planning for specimen collection, testing, data management, and coordinating reporting. In addition, it includes recommendations for swabbing, which includes appropriateness, location of specimen collection, PPE, and cleaning and disinfection
  https://azdhs.gov/documents/preparedness/epidemiology-disease-control/infectious-disease-epidemiology/novel-coronavirus/healthcare-providers/recommendations-long-term-care-facility-diagnostic-testing.pdf

Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS), Arizona Health Care Association, SonoraQuest Lab
- Along with local public health departments and providers, launched an initiative to test all residents and staff in Arizona's nursing care institutions over a two-week period (May 15 – May 29, 2020). Facilities were given the option of having a lab come to their location to do the testing or obtain the supplies to do their own on-site testing. Organizations who decided not to participate needed to sign an "opt out" notice and send to ADHS

California (CA)
California Covid-19 Testing Task Force
- Governor Newsom launched the COVID-19 Testing Task Force, a public-private working group with stakeholders across the state, to quickly boost California's testing capacity. The Testing Task Force ensures California has enough capacity and supplies to administer a significantly greater number of tests statewide. The task force maintains and publishes a list of approved labs that have met all criteria for readiness, and disseminates information to nursing homes throughout the state to ensure facilities have access to testing
  https://testing.covid19.ca.gov

California Department of Public Health (CDPH)
- On September 12, 2020, the CDPH released new recommendations for baseline screening, and response-driven testing of nursing home residents and staff. The recommendations also provide guidance on the use of point of care antigen testing instruments. CDPH is requiring all nursing homes, including those without positive COVID-19 cases, to implement weekly testing for all nursing home staff. Facilities with a positive COVID-19 case must conduct weekly response-driven testing for all residents and staff. Weekly response-driven testing will continue until no new positive cases are identified among residents after two sequential rounds of testing
  https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/Pages/AFL-20-53.aspx

Cedar Crest Nursing and Rehabilitation Center
- Cedar Crest Nursing and Rehabilitation Center was declared COVID-19 free on May 13, 2020 after battling the virus for seven weeks, which infected 55 percent (44) of their residents and 13 percent (19) of their staff. One third of their residents that tested positive were asymptomatic, and half of their staff that tested positive were asymptomatic. The solutions to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 included: 1) mass testing and cohorting to determine who is positive in the facility; 2) get permission from local public health department to allow asymptomatic staff to care for COVID-19 positive residents; 3) appoint a dedicated liaison to handle communication with staff and families; 4) establish a tracking system, such as a binder with tabs for every day of the month to file all communication, occurrences and activities

County of Los Angeles
- With increased community spread of COVID-19 and heightened demand for testing, Los Angeles County has committed $400,000 in one-time bridge funding to support staffing-related costs at COVID-19 testing sites operated by Community Organized Relief Effort (CORE), a nonprofit, within the City of Los Angeles. In addition, the County will continue to fully fund its nine operated sites and is also preparing to add additional testing sites in coming weeks to areas identified as "hot spots" where data illustrates high test positivity, low testing access, and high mortality. Nursing Home employees can potentially introduce COVID-19 into the facilities. To avert this from occurring, the County of Los Angeles committed additional funding to support testing site. That effort will include partnerships with community-based organizations to target high-risk communities through street outreach teams delivering COVID-19 prevention messages door-to-door
  https://covid19.lacounty.gov/covid19-news/la-county-commitment-testing-site-funding

Florida (FL)
Florida Department of Health
- Provides daily data updates for number of positive cases, tests performed, deaths, number of

long term care facilities with positive cases, number of persons of interest, and other information
https://floridahealthcovid19.gov

Florida Agency for Health Care Administration
- Implemented emergency rules to require hospitals test all residents before discharge to a nursing home, and to require nursing homes to test all staff when arranged by the Department of Health

United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
- HHS is sending rapid point of care testing instruments to several Florida nursing homes based on priority. Nursing homes are being prioritized by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services through data sources that consider epidemiological hot spots, availability of testing, and COVID-19 rates within nursing homes. The following link provides a downloadable file with details about the device allocation
https://data.cms.gov/Special-Programs-Initiatives-COVID-19-Nursing-Home/Nursing-Home-Data-Point-of-Care-Device-Allocation/jbvf-tb74

Georgia (GA)
Georgia National Guard, Department of Public Health, Department of Community Health
- Developed a testing strategy in response to Governor Brian Kemp's recommendations to support broader testing and to prioritize testing of vulnerable populations and health care professionals
- Ultimately, this strategy will expand to include private or commercial labs. More than 200 nursing homes have invited teams into their centers for cleaning and sanitizing, staff education, and assistance with testing
https://www.ghca.info/Files/National Guard Test Team for LTCF Process.pdf

Georgia Department of Public Health (GDPH)
- GDPH is using an online contact tracing program called Healthy Georgia Collaborative. Following a confirmed positive case, the department will contact those who were in contact with the individual two days before illness set in and enroll them in symptom monitoring. Individuals will be asked to monitor and report their symptoms through text messaging or phone calls and are asked to stay home for 14 days
https://dph.georgia.gov/contact-tracing
- Provides on-site support and developed a process for video audits, which has been invaluable to those in "hot spots" of COVID-19 activity
- Collected data from health care facilities on the State Electronic Notifiable Disease Surveillance System (SendSS) network
- Supported health care facilities with virtual and on-site visits
- Tested COVID-19 samples at the Georgia Department of Public Health laboratory
https://dph.georgia.gov

United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
- HHS is sending rapid point of care testing instruments to several Georgia nursing homes based on priority. Nursing homes are being prioritized by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services through data sources that consider epidemiological hot spots, availability of testing,

and COVID-19 rates within nursing homes. The following link provides a downloadable file with details about the device allocation
https://data.cms.gov/Special-Programs-Initiatives-COVID-19-Nursing-Home/Nursing-Home-Data-Point-of-Care-Device-Allocation/jbvf-tb74

Idaho (ID)
Office of the Governor Brad Little, Idaho State Department of Health
- The Idaho Rebounds plan was released which is a guideline for re-opening Idaho in stages based on qualifying criteria, inclusive of testing.
https://rebound.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/opening-up-guidlines_rev080620.pdf

Illinois (IL)
Chicago Department of Public Health
- Created a dedicated website with specific long term care guidance to help implement appropriate infection prevention and control, rapidly identify potentially infected staff/visitors, monitor residents for signs and symptoms of infection, access testing for residents and facility staff, investigate clusters of COVID-19, and connect to needed resources, including personal protective equipment (PPE)
https://www.chicagohan.org/covid-19/LTCF

Health Care Council of Illinois (HCCI)
- Developed COVID-19 Resource page, updated daily with information regarding state and federal regulations, infection control, personal protective equipment (PPE), and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) information
- Prepares member newsletters and email blasts on COVID-19 related resources and events throughout the state
http://www.hccil.org/covid-19

Illinois Department of Public Health
- Launch of a new, web-based COVID-19 electronic test ordering and reporting portal will allow health care providers to enter all necessary data to electronically submit a COVID-19 test sample from a computer or tablet
- https://www.team-iha.org/files/non-gated/quality/electronic-test-ordering-reporting-portal.aspx
- The Illinois Department of Public Health posted a new testing resource to its website, "Long Term Care Facility COVID-19 Viral Testing Flow Chart: Interim Guidance." The flow chart guides facilities through initial, immediate, and repeat testing plans for residents and staff following an outbreak
https://www.dph.illinois.gov/sites/default/files/COVID19/LTC%20testing%20flowchart%208.11.2020.pdf

LeadingAge Illinois
- LeadingAge Illinois added new updates from the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) to their online COVID-19 resource page. New resources include the latest guidance from IDPH, including question and answer webinar recordings, phased reopening plans, and antigen testing guidelines
  https://leadingageil.org/coronavirus

Office of the Governor J.B. Pritzker
- Drive-through testing sites are available throughout the state; all health care workers and residents with symptoms are eligible for testing
  https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/gov/COVID-19/Pages/default.aspx

Indiana (IN)
Indiana Health Care Association (IHCA)
- Following guidance issued by the Indiana State Department of Health on October 2, the IHCA released a decision tree guiding nursing homes through resident and staff testing. The decision tree covers decisions regarding test selection, reporting and follow-up testing
  https://www.ihca.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Decision-Tree.pdf

Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH)
- On October 28, 2020, ISDH released guidelines to help nursing homes interpret COVID-19 antigen test results
  https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/20_COVID%20nursing%20home%20antigen%2010.28.20.pdf
- Clarified which long term care staff members can administer COVID-19 tests. Indiana recommends the anyone administering the tests follow the CDC Interim Guidelines for Collecting, Handling, and Testing Clinical Specimens for COVID-19
  https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/INSDH/2020/10/29/file_attachments/1584512/Who%20Can%20Swab.pdf
- Finalized an electronic lab reporting process by which interested facilities can compile point of care (POC) test results in a spreadsheet and send them to ISDH in a .CSV file format. The process is an optional alternative to replace a facility's need to report POC test results individually through the REDCaps Survey. Interested facilities must work with ISDH to set up a credentialed account for submitting these test results
  https://www.ihca.org/resource/new-pathway-to-report-poc-test-results-through-electronic-lab-reporting-process
- Issued antigen screening guidelines to supplement the testing recommendations and requirements provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. ISDH's antigen screening guidelines recommend facilities use CDC-provided county positivity rates to direct testing frequency and ensure accuracy across the state
  https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN_COVID-19%20Antigen%20testing%20and%20Visitiation%20Updates%209.25.20.pdf
- Released COVID-19 Specimen Collection and Submission Guidelines update on May 18, 2020
  https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/COVID-19%20specimen%20submission%20and%20collection%20guidelines_5.18.20.pdf

Office of the Governor Eric Holcomb
- Beginning November 1, 2020, the Indiana National Guard will help nursing homes with COVID-19 testing and data entry to allow long term care staff more time to directly care for residents. Facilities currently experiencing outbreaks will receive the first priority for assistance https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/post-acute/indiana-national-guard-to-help-combat-covid-19-in-long-term-care-facilities.html

Iowa (IA)
Iowa State Hygienic Laboratory (SHL)
- *Nursing homes may order test kits and schedule a free pick-up to deliver the tests to the SHL. A web portal and electronic order forms have streamlined the process* https://covidtesting.shl.uiowa.edu

Office of the Governor Kim Reynolds COVID-19 Response
- TestIowa.com was launched to help officials target areas of opportunity and to help them make decisions about reopening the state. New testing sites will test an additional 3,000 people a day. First responders and medical personnel are prioritized for testing https://www.testiowa.com/en

Kansas (KS)
Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE)
- KDHE, in partnership with State Epidemiologist Dr. Farah S. Ahmed, developed and distributed a statewide strategy for COVID-19 specimen collection and testing https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1292/KS-Statewide-Strategy-for-COVID-19-Testing
- KDHE developed a Response and Containment Guide for Long Term Care and Other Residential Facilities in Kansas. The guide was updated October 29, 2020 to include guidance on monitoring, reporting, and testing cases; personal protective equipment (PPE); and new testing strategies https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/DocumentCenter/View/982/LTCFs-COVID-19-Response-and-Containment-PDF---10-29-20

LeadingAge
- LeadingAge Kansas added a new Testing: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) resource page to its website. The FAQ page addresses topics related to resident and staff testing, including questions on frequency, baseline and follow-up testing, consent, as well as testing equipment, supplies, and costs
https://www.leadingagekansas.org/testing

Kentucky (KY)
Kentucky Hospital Association (KYHA)
- KYHA created an online COVID-19 toolkit that focuses on hospital administrators, health care professionals and Kentucky residents.
https://www.kyha.com/covid-19-ltc-guidance

Office of the Governor Andy Beshear
- The Governor has asked that all residents and staff at every Kentucky long term care facility be

tested for COVID-19. The state is coordinating with Norton Healthcare, a comprehensive health care system operating out of Louisville, to make that possible. The state of Kentucky is paying for the initial facility-wide testing of all long term care facilities, both for staff and residents. Norton Healthcare, in conjunction with the Kentucky Department of Health and local health departments, have initial pre-testing calls with facilities that have been scheduled for testing to determine any barriers, such personal protective equipment supply, cohorting issues, and staffing, in an effort to create action plans to address needs for improvement. Norton Healthcare is contracted to do onsite testing if needed by the facility. There is an additional call with the facility after testing has occurred that includes all of the above mentioned entities to discuss results and address any issues or needs that arise. Norton Healthcare provides a 24/7 call center for senior congregate care centers to use to ask questions and to conduct follow-up calls with facilities that have had testing to ensure they are still on track https://kyepltc.org/2020/05/13/norton-healthcare-post-acute-statewide-help-line-in-collaboration-with-the-ky-department-for-public-health

TEAM KENTUCKY (Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Kentucky Public Health)
- The state of Kentucky is maintaining a COVID-19 website which contains information about state restriction guidance, rates of infection by state and county, a COVID-19 Hotline (800-722-5725), a link to a daily report of COVID-19 epidemiological data, and a link to the most current long term care update by the state https://govstatus.egov.com/kycovid19

Louisiana (LA)
Louisiana Department of Health (LDH)
- Assembled the LDH Nursing Home Facility Toolkit for nursing home support. This toolkit provides state and best practice guidance for personal protective equipment (PPE), information about an option for safely sanitizing N95 masks for re-use, staffing resources, and testing recommendations, along with a variety of pertinent contact numbers http://ldh.la.gov/assets/medicaid/hss/docs/Coronavirus_2019/LDH_NH_Facility_Toolkit.pdf

Michigan (MI)
Michigan Department of Civil Rights
- Released Michigan COVID-19 Test Sites video in sign language https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d6J5gL4Y7Lw&feature=youtu.be

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)
- MDHHS has added new data to its website with lab turnaround times and announced its holiday data schedule https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98163_98173-545615--,00.html
- MDHHS has released a Frequently Asked Questions and Resources document about the Abbot BinaxNOW™ Antigen Test https://www.michigan.gov/documents/coronavirus/BinaxNOW_FAQ_706167_7.pdf

- On October 19, 2020, MDHHS announced the launch of new partnerships with Walgreens and the Michigan Primary Care Association to offer 77 new, free COVID-19 test sites statewide, bringing the total number of state-supported, free test sites to nearly 100. Residents can find the free test sites on the state's locator. Sites operate in all regions of the state to ensure increased access to free testing
https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98158-542612--,00.html

Minnesota (MN)

Alzheimer's Association Minnesota-North Dakota

- Alzheimer's Association Minnesota-North Dakota released a video on YouTube about tips and resources for dementia care during COVID-19 testing
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rZ4txJ9RbBI&feature=youtu.be

Minnesota Department of Health (MDH)

- "Reporting Results of COVID-19 Tests Performed Inside your Long Term Care Facilities" was updated on 11/20/2020 to identify required reporting through the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) for nursing facilities and streamlined links for MDH reporting
https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/hcp/ltcantigenreport.pdf
- Released on 11/20/2020 COVID-19 testing recommendations for long term care facilities
https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/hcp/ltctestrec.pdf
- Released a website reference titled, "Reporting Point of Care COVID-19 Test Results through the CDC National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN)"
https://www.careproviders.org/members/2020/COVID_NHSN_POC_Test_Reporting_LTC_1026.pdf
- Posted website reference titled, "Using Antigen-based Point-of Care Testing for COVID-19 in Long Term Care Facilities," which provides guidance on: 1) when antigen testing is/isn't appropriate; 2) antigen testing limitations; 3) using results to guide further actions
https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/hcp/ltcantigentest.pdf
- Posted "COVID-19 Testing Recommendations for Long term Care Facilities." This resource provides information on specimen collection and processing, individual and population-based testing, ongoing test strategies, and cohorting and isolation
https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/hcp/ltctestrec.pdf
- MDH created a Road Map for Conducting a COVID-19 Point Prevalence Survey (PPS)
https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/hcp/pps0roadmap.pdf
- MDH created a health care worker consent form for Point Prevalence Testing
https://www.careproviders.org/members/2020/COVID_TestingStaffConsent.pdf
- MDH released the Road Map for Conducting a COVID-19 Point Prevalence Survey (PPS)
https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/hcp/pps0roadmap.pdf
- MDH updated COVID-19 testing recommendations for long term care facilities
https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/hcp/ltctestrec.pdf
- Essential Resources and Forms for COVID-19 Testing and Case Management in Long Term Care Facilities
https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/hcp/ltcformsguide.pdf

Minnesota National Guard
- The Minnesota National Guard offers ongoing to support to the Minnesota Department of Health by staffing and coordinating no-barrier COVID-19 testing locations across the state. Sites are updated at the following link.
https://minnesotanationalguard.ng.mil/mnng-covid-19

State of Minnesota
- The state budget agency approved spending $4,359,230 to purchase up to 1,000,000 swabs. Funding comes from the COVID-19 Minnesota Fund
https://mn.gov/mmb/budget/covid19-mn-fund

Mississippi (MS)
Mississippi Department of Health
- Developed two-week strategy to test residents and employees in long term care facilities for COVID-19

Missouri (MO)
Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services (DHSS)
- As reported by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, the Missouri DHSS released its COVID-19 testing strategy to include testing entities, venues, and specific at-risk populations targeted (i.e., nursing homes and health care workers)
https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/missouri.pdf
- To assist with testing, testing kits may be ordered through the state public health laboratory
https://ltc.health.mo.gov

Missouri University Sinclair School of Nursing – Quality Improvement Program for Missouri (QIPMO)
- Updated a toolkit on October 14 titled, "Nursing Homes Using Point of Care Devices for SARS-COV-2 Testing." The toolkit provides guidance related to federal testing, Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments, data reporting, laboratory best practices and reordering tests
https://nursinghomehelp.org/educational/toolkit-for-nursing-homes-using-point-of-care-devices-for-sars-cov-2-testing-10-5-20/

Montana (MT)
Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services
- Developed and is implementing a testing strategy to support broader testing of vulnerable populations, including nursing home and assisted living residents and workers using the state public health laboratory and reference laboratories

Nebraska (NE)
Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
- Provider Bulletin 20-38, released on October 21, 2020, clarifies Nebraska Medicaid policies regarding COVID-19 testing for residents of Nebraska nursing and long term care facilities and provides updates on recent guidance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
http://dhhs.ne.gov/Medicaid%20Provider%20Bulletins/Provider%20Bulletin%2020-38.pdf
- TestNebraska is a new initiative in partnership with the state leaders and private corporations. Their goal is to dramatically increase the rate of COVID-19 testing so Nebraskans can have better

access to testing and help stem the spread of COVID-19 to get us back to normal as quickly as possible. The website is interactive whereby someone can take an assessment. For those who currently have symptoms, have interacted with someone who has already tested positive, or have recently visited places where COVID-19 is more widespread they will be given an appointment and direct them to a drive-through testing location
https://www.testnebraska.com/en

- The COVID-19 Long-Term Care and Assisted Living Facility Baseline Testing Project is designed to provide baseline testing for all facilities in Nebraska. The goal of Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services is to test all staff for COVID-19 at all Nebraska facilities. If a positive result is found in the staff testing pool, then a secondary testing session is performed to include every resident
http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/COVID-19-Testing.aspx

Nevada (NV)
Nevada Department of Health and Human Services
- On the Nevada department's COVID-19 website, "Nevada Health Response," you will find information updated by state's Office of Analytics with the latest statistics on confirmed cases, testing and hospitalizations
https://nvhealthresponse.nv.gov

Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health
- Nevada issued technical bulletin expanding testing

Office of the Governor Steve Sisolak
- Nevada Governor Steve Sisolak formed the Nevada COVID-19 Response, Relief and Recovery Task Force to secure medical supplies and monetary donations for the state's response to COVID-19. The mission of the task force is to mobilize the private sector in securing supplies, equipment, and funding to meet the community's most urgent needs and to remove barriers to direct and efficient collaboration between partners. In the first week of operation, the Nevada Energy Foundation donated $1 million in collaboration with the Task Force to nine organizations across Nevada to support those in need
https://nvc19.org

Southern Nevada Health District
- The Southern Nevada Health District has updated its COVID-19 resource page and now offers COVID-19 testing by appointment at two Las Vegas locations
https://registration.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/#

New Jersey (NJ)
New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH)
- See the NHDOH Communicable Disease Service webpage for current New Jersey COVID-19 testing information.
https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/covid2019_professionals.shtml
Requires that all facility residents and staff be tested no later than May 26, 2020, with additional follow-up testing required no more than one week later
https://covid19.nj.gov/NJfaqs?query=screening+nursing+home+visitors&tabOrder=search.html
%2CAASfaqs%2CNJfaqs%2Ccoronavirus%2Cresources%2Clocations%2Cstatus&Facets.filterbox.fi

lter0=%5B%5D
- The Guidance for COVID-19 Diagnosed and/or Exposed Healthcare Providers resource provides guidance for healthcare providers as to if and when they should be tested for COVID-19 https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/Guidance_for_COVID19_Diagnosed_an dor_Exposed_HCP.pdf
- Symptom Tracker uses simple questions to guide people through possible COVID-19 exposures and symptoms and suggested next steps, including testing recommendations https://covid19.nj.gov/faqs/nj-information/general-public/where-and-how-do-i-get-tested-for-covid-19-in-new-jersey-who-should-get-testing
- On March 20, 2020, the New Jersey Department of Health posted an update stating "The New Jersey Department of Health recommends against using any antibody testing to attempt to diagnose current or past infection with SARS-CoV-2. A positive result on a SARS-CoV-2 antibody test should not be viewed as evidence of immunity to or past infection with COVID-19." https://covid19.nj.gov/faqs/nj-information/testing-information/should-i-get-tested-for-covid-19-antibodies-can-antibody-testing-tell-whether-someone-has-been-exposed-to-the-virus-that-causes-covid-19#:~:text=There%20is%20still%20a%20lot,with%20COVID%2D19

New Mexico (NM)
New Mexico Department of Health
- Developed a testing strategy in response to Governor recommendations to support broader testing and to prioritize testing of vulnerable populations and health care professionals including:
  o Created strike teams to go to nursing homes to conduct testing when potential or positive COVID-19 cases are seen in residents or staff members
  o Weekly surveillance testing for 15 percent of staff and residents where COVID-19 is not present and weekly 100 percent testing for staff and residents where COVID-19 is present
  o New Mexico COVID-19 website provides a list of drive-through testing sites available throughout the state; all health care workers and residents with symptoms are eligible for testing, as well as a list of vendors who will come onsite to perform COVID-19 testing
  o With the support of the New Mexico hospital and health care association, a testing protocol has been developed for patients prior to transfer from hospitals to long term care facilities

New York (NY)
Mount Sinai Icahn School of Medicine
- Using artificial intelligence (AI) with imaging, clinical symptoms, exposure history, and laboratory data, created an algorithm to rapidly diagnose COVID-19 in patients https://www.nature.com/articles/s41591-020-0931-3.pdf

New York State Department of Health
- Issued 11/24/2020, guidance provided to ensure that the health, safety, and quality of life of nursing home residents is maintained during the holiday season. Residents who leave a facility must: 1) Quarantine or minimize contact to the extent safely possible prior to their return to the facility. 2) Quarantine on transmission-based precautions for 14 days upon return to the facility. 3) Test negative within 24 hours before returning to the facility. 4) Be tested at least three times during the 14-day quarantine period at the facility, including on the first day (upon return) and

the last day that a resident must be quarantined
https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/11/nh-holiday-guidance-11-24-2020.pdf

- Newly launched mobile contact tracing app, *COVID Alert NY*, is a voluntary, anonymous, exposure-notification smartphone app. The app will send a user an alert if they were in close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19. Knowing about a potential exposure allows an individual to self-quarantine immediately, get tested, and reduce the potential exposure risk to family, friends, neighbors, co-workers and others. The free mobile app is available to anyone 18 or older who lives, works, or attends college in New York or New Jersey. It is available for download from the Google Play Store or Apple App Store. *COVID Alert NY* is available in English, Spanish, Chinese, Bengali, Korean, Russian and Haitian Creole
https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-alert-ny

- Issued Health Advisory: Respiratory Illness in Nursing Homes and Adult Care Facilities in Areas of Sustained Community Transmission of COVID-19
  - Any febrile acute respiratory illness or clusters of acute respiratory illness (whether febrile or not) in nursing homes and adult care facilities in New York City, Long Island, Westchester County, or Rockland County should be presumed to be COVID-19 unless diagnostic testing reveals otherwise
  - Community Organized Relief Effort (CORE), a nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening communities affected by or vulnerable to crisis, has assisted in establishing COVID-19 testing sites in New York City's vulnerable neighborhoods to increase access to COVID-19 testing for high risk populations
https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home

Office of the Governor Andrew Cuomo
- Pharmacists have been added to the list of providers who can administer a COVID-19 test. New York State Medicaid will pay of the test when administered by a pharmacist. Billing instructions are included in the document
https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/05/nysmedicaid_ffs_guidanceforpharmacylabtesting_5_22_20.pdf

- Released on November 10, 2020, Executive Order requires the operators and administrators of all nursing homes in New York State Department of Health designated red, yellow, and orange zones to test or make arrangements for the testing of all personnel, including all employees, contract staff, medical staff, operators and administrators, for COVID-19. Testing must occur twice per week in all nursing homes in these zones according to previously filed testing plans, until such time the facility is no longer in a designated red, orange or yellow zone, at which time the facility may revert back to once weekly testing
https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/11/dal_nh_20-16_testingandvisitationrequirementsinredorangeandyellowzones004.pdf

State of New York
- As New York City prepares for Phase 1 of reopening on June 8, 2020, 10 additional testing sites will be added to hot spot areas in predominantly low-income and minority communities
https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home

North Carolina (NC)
North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS)
- NCDHHS launched an online portal for primary care providers to request reimbursement for COVID-19-related costs for individuals without insurance https://www.ncdhhs.gov/news/press-releases/ncdhhs-launches-online-portal-reimburse-providers-treating-those-without-health
- In September, the NCDHHS launched a statewide COVID-19 exposure notification app, "SlowCOVIDNC." The app will help North Carolinians slow the spread of COVID-19 by notifying users who have been in close contact with someone that has tested positive for the virus https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/slowcovidnc
- The online resources are Check My Symptoms, Find My Testing Place, and COVID-19 Community Team Outreach Tool (a password protected site that helps people track their own symptoms) https://www.ncdhhs.gov/news/press-releases/ncdhhs-launches-testing-and-contact-tracing-resources-help-slow-spread-covid-19
- The Department is targeting additional testing and tracing resources for the nine counties that have some of the highest COVID-19 cases: Mecklenburg, Wake, Durham, Johnston, Alamance, Guilford, Forsyth, Lee, and Duplin
- Statewide Standing Order for COVID-19 Diagnostic Testing and Reporting adopted on July 7, 2020 https://files.nc.gov/covid/documents/guidance/healthcare/COVID-19-Statewide-Standing-Order.pdf
- On September 2, 2020, the NCDHHS launched a no cost COVID-19 testing program that will cover 100 percent of costs related to COVID-19 testing for eligible uninsured individuals. To qualify for reimbursement, the individual tested must:
  - Live in North Carolina
  - Not be eligible for or enrolled in Medicaid or other health insurance plan
  - Hold U.S. citizenship or other legal immigration status https://governor.nc.gov/news/north-carolina-launches-no-cost-covid-19-testing-program-uninsured-north-carolinians
- As of October 7, 2020, more than 100,000 people have downloaded "SlowCOVIDNC," the official exposure notification app of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. SlowCOVIDNC alerts users when they may have been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. The app relies on users to anonymously submit their positive result to notify others. It is free, completely anonymous and does not collect, store or share personal information or location data https://www.ncdhhs.gov/news/press-releases/slowcovidnc-surpasses-100000-downloads-state-health-officials-encourage-north

United States Department of Health and Human Services
- United States Department of Health and Human Services is sending rapid point-of-care testing instruments to several North Carolina nursing homes based on priority. Nursing homes are being prioritized by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services through data sources that consider epidemiological hot spots, availability of testing, and COVID-19 rates within nursing homes. The following link provides a download link for a file that provides detail about the device allocation https://data.cms.gov/Special-Programs-Initiatives-COVID-19-Nursing-Home/Nursing-Home-Data-Point-of-Care-Device-Allocation/jbvf-tb74

Ohio (OH)
Ohio Department of Aging (ODA)
- As part of the Responsible RestartOhio program, the Department of Aging (ODA) published materials on the revised skilled nursing facility (SNF) testing program that took effect October 26, 2020. ODA provides information on the new testing guidelines, including a weekly testing frequency for all counties except those designated as red by CMS, along with availability of state support for all required tests, which will be a combination of BinaxNOW cards and polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests. For BinaxNOW, state support means the cards are free. For PCR, state support means the state arranges for and delivers the tests, plus requires laboratories to bill third-party payers, with state reimbursement for self-insured providers. ODA posted a survey for SNFs to opt-in or opt-out of state support for testing that offers four options: full state support, two kinds of partial state support, and no state support
https://aging.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/aging/care-and-living/coronavirus-response/nursing-facility-covid-19-testing-program

Ohio Department of Health (ODH)
- The ODH Testing in Nursing Homes website provides clinical checklists for specimen collection of COVID-19 tests, specimen storage and transport
https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/healthcare-providers-and-local-health-districts/Testing-Nursing-Homes

Ohio Health Care Association
- The following steps are being implemented to ramp up COVID-19 testing of residents and staff of nursing homes to better prevent the spread of the disease among some of Ohio's most vulnerable residents
https://www.ohca.org/docs/documents/5963/Testing in Nursing Homes Final 05.26.2020.pdf

Oklahoma (OK)
Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH)
- OSDH, in partnership with Governor Kevin Stitt and federal, state, and private industry leadership, announced the establishment of the Oklahoma Pandemic Center for Innovation and Excellence (OPCIE), the first center of its kind in the nation at the intersection of agriculture, animal and human medicine, food safety, public health testing, and preparedness
https://coronavirus.health.ok.gov/articles/gov-stitt-osdh-announce-oklahoma-pandemic-center-innovation-and-excellence-move-public
- OSDH announced the expansion of contact tracing outreach efforts to include text messaging. This functionality will help streamline the process for contact tracers as they reach out to individuals who have been in close contact with infected individuals
https://coronavirus.health.ok.gov/articles/oklahoma-contact-tracing-now-includes-text-messages-07242020
- On April 2020, the OSDH launched the web-based COVID-19 symptom tracker. The tracker can be used to register symptoms online and help determine next steps for mitigating the spread of COVID-19
https://intake-app-dot-osdh-mms.appspot.com/intake-form

Oregon (OR)
The Oregon Health Authority
- The Oregon Health Authority manages the COVID-19 response for the state and supports a hotline and several resources, dashboard views, FAQs and state reports
https://govstatus.egov.com/OR-OHA-COVID-19

Pennsylvania (PA)
Pennsylvania Department of Health
- On November 11, 2020, the Pennsylvania Department of Health released an updated PA-HAN - PAHAN-535, which outlines recommendations when evaluating patients for COVID-19. This updated guidance gives clinicians and health care providers current guidance on isolation for patients and providers being evaluated for COVID-19 to ensure that timely recommendations are provided to reduce spread of the disease. Included with this update is the COVID-19 Close Contact worksheet
https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/prep/PA-HAN/Pages/2020-HAN.aspx

Pennsylvania State Department of Health, Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, CVS Health
- On June 19, 2020, the Department of Health and the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency announced a partnership with CVS Health to offer COVID-19 testing services to nursing homes
- The Department of Health uses data sources to provide a three-tiered priority list to CVS to offer free testing services to facilities
- Outreach calls to facility administrators began the week of June 22, 2020. After testing, the laboratories will process the samples and return results in two to three days

South Carolina (SC)
South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC)
- Developed a new resource, "Interim Point-of-Care Antigen Testing Guidance for Long term Care Facilities" to help facilities interpret and report test results and provide recommendations for specific testing situations
https://scdhec.gov/sites/default/files/media/document/Interim_Long_Term_Care_POC_Antigen_Testing_Guidance_09.21.2020.pdf
- See the DHEC's Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) website for current South Carolina COVID data as well as multiple links to relevant COVID-19 resource documents.
https://scdhec.gov/covid19
- Maintains a web page that provides state and federal resources and updates on changes to infection control policies and guidelines
https://scdhec.gov/infectious-diseases/viruses/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/nursing-homes-covid-19

South Dakota (SD)
Michael J Fitzmaurice South Dakota Veterans Home, Hot Springs, SD
- The maintenance and HVAC departments designed and constructed a negative pressure area for point of care testing adjacent to their employee entrance. This allows for safe swabbing in a convenient area upon employees entering the facility. The link below is an image of this swabbing station
https://greatplainsqin.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/covid-testing-fitzmaurice-veterans-home.jpg

Tieszan Memorial Home
- Tieszan Memorial Home used its social media page to inform community and resident's families about COVID 19 mass testing. The intent was for families and residents' representatives to have an opportunity to read the information prior to the personal call to obtain consent for the testing. This provided time for representatives to gather any questions they might have, ultimately contributing to a quicker process in obtaining consents

Tennessee (TN)
The Middle Tennessee Regional Healthcare Quality Improvement Collaborative Communication Coalition
- The Middle Tennessee Regional Healthcare Quality Improvement Collaborative Communication Coalition, a coalition working with Alliant Health Services (AHS), formed a task force that meets every other Thursday with representation from multiple counties in the Nashville area. Nursing homes, assisted living centers, the Mayor's office, and the Tennessee Department of Health are represented. They are working together to coordinate personal protective equipment, testing, and National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) needs, such as assistance needed for enrollment and/or reporting in the COVID-19 module. Providers in the area network to invite other providers. A senior quality advisor at AHS, Julie Clark, julie.clark@allianthealth.org, is available to assist connection with this coalition

United States Department of Health and Human Services
- HHS is sending rapid point of care testing instruments to several Tennessee nursing homes based on priority. Nursing homes are being prioritized by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services through data sources that consider epidemiological hot spots, availability of testing, and COVID-19 rates within nursing homes. The following link provides a downloadable file with details about the device allocation
https://data.cms.gov/Special-Programs-Initiatives-COVID-19-Nursing-Home/Nursing-Home-Data-Point-of-Care-Device-Allocation/jbvf-tb74

Texas (TX)
Office of the Governor Greg Abbott
- On April 27, 2020, Governor Abbott released the Texans Helping Texans: The Governor's Report to Open Texas. A key component of this plan is preventing the spread of COVID-19 cases in long term care facilities. The Report outlines the expectation that any nursing home with one case of COVID-19 should receive immediate testing for all residents and staff to immediately quantify the extent of infection. On May 11, 2020, the Governor strengthened this effort by directing that Texas state agencies test 100 percent of residents and staff in Texas nursing homes

Texas Health and Human Services Commission
- Texas is distributing test kits to certain nursing facilities located in counties where the COVID-19 positivity rate is greater than 10 percent
  https://hhs.texas.gov/sites/default/files/documents/services/health/coronavirus-covid-19/attestation-free-covid-19-test-kits.pdf
- Long-term Care Regulatory Provider Letter PL 20-46, released on October 21, 2020, outlines responsibilities related to reporting COVID-19 test results for long term care providers conducting point-of-care (POC) antigen tests within their facilities. This letter is not intended for use by providers that do not conduct COVID-19 POC tests within their facilities.
  https://apps.hhs.texas.gov/providers/communications/2020/letters/PL2020-46.pdf
- Commissioner Dr. John Hellerstedt released a letter on November 12, 2020 stating: Beginning November 14, 2020, skilled nursing facilities, long term care facilities and intermediate care facilities who are currently submitting COVID-19 laboratory data into the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) should discontinue their direct reporting to Texas Department of State Health Services National Electronic Disease Surveillance System. Reporting through NHSN will fulfill the state reporting requirement for facilities actively entering into NHSN. It is important to note that facilities must continue to comply with their local health authority directive for reporting. Questions may be emailed here: COVID-19ELR@dshs.texas.gov

TMF Health Quality Institute
- TMF created the Long-term Care Antibiotic Podcast Series, a two-session podcast that highlights key information and strategies toward adopting antibiotic stewardship practices in nursing homes
  https://tmfnetworks.org/Networks/Nursing-Homes-Skilled-Nursing-Facilities/Long-term-Care-Antibiotic-Stewardship-Podcast-Series

Utah (UT)
State of Utah
- There are a number of organizations working to support nursing homes to implement and spread COVID-19 state actions
- State actions identified include:
  - Mobile unit outreach testing to all state facilities, with special emphasis on rural long term care facilities
  - Mobile testing providers bring their own personal protective equipment to perform tests, and they also guide the facility in their response to persons under investigation (PUI) cases
- With the support of the hospital and health care associations, a testing protocol has been developed for patients prior to transfer from hospitals to long term care facilities
- This has helped nursing homes ease resistance to accepting new patients in the absence of testing

Utah State Department of Health
- Utah has a new campaign called "Crush the Curve" that demonstrates the power we have when we work together. This new initiative is sponsored through Silicon Slopes in partnership with state leaders and private corporations, with the goal to dramatically increase the rate of COVID-19 testing to help the state of Utah get "back to normal" as quickly as possible

https://www.testutah.com/en

Vermont (VT)
Vermont Department of Health
- Universal Testing at Facilities: When a person tests positive, testing is offered to all staff and residents
https://www.healthvermont.gov/response/coronavirus-covid-19/long-term-care-and-group-living-settings

Virginia (VA)
Virginia Department of Health (VDH)
- On November 4, 2020, VDH released interim COVID-19 antigen testing recommendations to provide guidance on the use of antigen testing, including examples of when antigen testing could be considered, information on available rapid point-of-care antigen tests, and instructions for test result evaluation and reporting
https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/antigen-testing-recommendations
- Launched a new external dashboard, "COVID-19 PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) Test Positivity Rates by Locality." The dashboard is updated every Monday with county positivity rates and may be utilized by nursing homes to determine testing frequency
https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/health-professionals/virginia-long-term-care-task-force/covid-19-in-virginia-pcr-positivity-rates
- VDH released a portal for reporting point of care COVID-19 test results. The portal will assist testing sites in satisfying the CARES Act requirement to report every diagnostic and screening test performed for the detection of SARS-CoV-2 or to diagnose a possible case of COVID-19
https://apps.vdh.virginia.gov/pocreporting/login/login.aspx

Virginia Health Care Association – Virginia Center for Assisted Living (VHCA-VCAL)
- On September 9, 2020, the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) updated their algorithm for COVID-19 molecular testing to include COVID-19 antigen testing. This update is designed to help health care personnel determine who to test, testing options, and what recommendations to provide based on the results
- https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/182/2020/05/COVID-19-Testing-Algorithm.pdf

West Virginia (WV)
Office of the Governor Jim Justice
- On Friday November 13, 2020, West Virginia's Governor issued Executive Order 79-20 requiring all nursing home and assisted living staff to be tested twice a week. Per the order, all doctors, nurses, staff, and employees working in nursing homes and assisted livings throughout the state will need to be tested for COVID-19 twice a week until further notice
https://governor.wv.gov/Documents/2020%20Executive%20Orders/EO%2079-20%20-%20Nursing%20Home%20and%20Assisted%20Living%20Testing.pdf

Wisconsin (WI)
LeadingAge Wisconsin
- Updated their online batch entry spreadsheet, "Antigen Test Results Reporting," to reflect edits that reduce provider time with data entry. The spreadsheet is available in the Nursing Home heading on the website's COVID-19 resource page. At the link below, scroll to find the Nursing Home heading where you

can find the download link.
https://leadingagewi.org/members-subscribers/coronavirus-covid-19-information-resources

Wisconsin Department of Health Services (WDHS)
- Issued a standing order intended to make it easier for organizations with point-of-care (POC) tests to use these supplies efficiently, effectively, and safely
  https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/dph/wi-standingorder-102020.pdf
- Expanded information for providers on ordering/securing test supplies, process, and procedures
  https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/providers.htm

Alabama (AL)
Office of the Lieutenant Governor Will Ainsworth, Business Council of Alabama, Chamber of Commerce Association of Alabama, AlabamaWorks!, The Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama, Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce, Southeast AlabamaWorks!, West AlabamaWorks!
- Alabama has created an online personal protective equipment (PPE), employment, and material resource guide for health care providers to find available supplies, disinfectants, PPE, employer/employee guidance, and more external pertinent links
https://tuscaloosachamber.com/business-toolkit

California (CA)
California Department of Public Health
- Provided resources for skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) on preventing, detecting, and preparing for COVID-19 with a toolkit titled "Preparing for COVID-19 in California Skilled Nursing Facilities"
https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/CDPH%20Document%20Library/AFL-20-25-Attachment-01-SNF-Checklist.pdf

County of Santa Clara Emergency Operations Center
- Organized local resources to meet projected needs for skilled nursing facilities (SNFs)
- Distributed a survey for residents to document skills and match them with specific nursing home needs, such as janitorial services and social work
https://www.sccgov.org/sites/covid19/Pages/i-can-help.aspx

Delaware (DE)
Delaware Health Care Facilities Association
- Temporary nursing aide training allows staffing to increase and may be able to recruit later, giving unemployed workers a job
https://www.dhcfa.org

District of Columbia (DC)
Government of District of Columbia
- Emergency Childcare Initiative: As part of the District of Columbia Government's response, the Office of the State Superintendent of Education is partnering with licensed child care providers to offer emergency care for the children of health care professionals. Health care professionals who currently hold a childcare voucher will continue to have their child care costs covered and will not be charged a copay
https://mcusercontent.com/67e7a773996f97d87b3be7633/files/6c6dd6d1-9680-4a1d-b3af-d2a3304222c2/COVID_Flyer_2020.01.pdf

Florida (FL)
Florida Department of Health
- Extended health care practitioner licensure to avoid lapse and allowed reactivation of licensure for those whose license lapsed in the last two years

Georgia (GA)
Georgia Association of Nurses in Long Term Care
- Continued supportive efforts of the Georgia Health Care Association for updates to nursing staff and encouraged centers to take advantage of applicable waivers to reduce staffing burdens https://www.ghca.info/ganltc

Georgia Healthcare Facility Regulation Department
- Worked closely with the Georgia Department of Public Health, the Georgia Health Care Association (GHCA), and the National Guard to stay abreast of COVID-19 activity and the impact on centers, while remaining vigilant for highest quality of care for the residents in Georgia
- Provided website updates with changes in rules/regulations, contact information and nurse aide program temporary waiver for staffing
- Surveyors have been connecting with long term care organizations collecting information related to COVID-19 and coordinating with the Georgia National Guard to develop a system for collection of COVID-19 data
- The data collection platform will update the public daily at 2 PM, replacing a previous report from the Office of the Governor Brian Kemp https://dch.georgia.gov/divisionsoffices/healthcare-facility-regulation

LeadingAge
- Developed and shared an 1135 Nursing Home Blanket Waiver Chart https://leadingageil.new-media-release.com/2020/coronavirus/assets/NursingHome_BlanketWaiver_HighLevel_May1_Final.pdf
- Worked to get temporary nursing assistants (TNAs) during emergency to alleviate shortages of certified nursing assistants (CNAs)

Illinois (IL)
American Medical Association
- Illinois is one of eight states to partner with the American Medical Association (AMA) on volunteer health care professionals
- The AMA Guide includes information for physicians and health care professionals to support communities severely impacted by COVID-19. It tells how and where to volunteer—and things to consider before registering. For state agencies and institutions, the guide includes information on third-party organizations that can identify and match volunteers accordingly, as well as resources for credentialing in an emergency https://www.ama-assn.org/delivering-care/public-health/covid-19-volunteer-guide-health-care-professionals

Illinois Department of Aging
- The Illinois Department of Aging maintains a webpage with multiple links to IDoA COVID-19 Virtual Conferences of multiple relevant topics. https://www2.illinois.gov/aging/forprofessionals/Pages/QualityAssurance.aspx

Illinois Health Care Association (IHCA)
- Illinois Health Care Association (IHCA)is supporting members' use of Temporary Nursing Assistant Training and working with the Illinois Department of Public Health to extend the training past the September 18, 2020 deadline

https://www.ihca.com/tna

LeadingAge

- LeadingAge recently released a new research report, Making Care Work Pay: How Paying at Least a Living Wage to Direct Care Workers Could Benefit Care Recipients, Workers and Communities
https://leadingage.org/sites/default/files/Making%20Care%20Work%20Pay%20Report.pdf

Indiana (IN)

Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH)

- Posted on October 19, 2020, ISDH developed health workforce related resources that are available to all long term care providers should an urgent or emergency need for additional workers arise. Established partnership with the Bowen Center for Health Workforce Research and Policy to manage the Indiana Health Care Reserve Workforce. Requests for additional health care workers can be submitted through a request form hosted on the State's coronavirus home page. All submissions are responded to within 24 hours and include a list of reserve workforce members available within the community
https://www.ihca.org/resource/indiana-health-care-reserve-workforce
- On September 17, 2020, the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) renewed Emergency Orders issued in March and April granting Temporary Blanket Waivers for comprehensive care facilities and residential care facilities. The orders include extending the temporary blanket waiver for transfers and discharges, allowing nursing homes to transfer/discharge residents as part of an emergency response and containment measures
https://www.ihca.org/resource/isdh-renews-blanket-waivers-for-comprehensive-and-residential-care-facilities
- *On October 20, 2020, the Indiana Department of Health released a letter that clarifies the requirements for return to work*
https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/INSDH/2020/10/20/file_attachments/1575565/Return%20to%20work%20letter%2010.20.20.pdf
- *On October 27, 2020, the Indiana Department of Health released an Employee Screening Tool for nursing homes to use in screening employees on whether they are "fit for duty"*
https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/Employee%20Screening%20for%20Fit%20for%20Duty%20form%2010-20-20.pdf
- The Indiana Department of Health issued updated orders regarding waivers to reduce the number of CNA training hours with the addition of COVID-19 specific resident care procedures, provide a process for training Personal Care Attendants (PCAs) and Temporary Nurse Aides (TNAs) can be trained as CNAs, and authorize the training of PCAs and TNAs as CNAs in facilities that are subject to CNA training bans as long as the training is provided by an approved CNA training program
https://www.ihca.org/resource/idh-issues-certified-nurse-aide-training-program-orders

State of Indiana, Office of Governor Eric Holcomb

- Signed an executive order on September 29 extending the temporary licensing of health care workers who do not currently hold an active license.
https://www.in.gov/gov/files/Executive%20Order%202020-45%20Renewal%20and%20Recission%20of%20Certain%20Directives.pdf

University of Iowa
- The National Nursing Home Social Work Network is a geriatric workforce enhancement program funded by grants from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to develop a health care workforce that maximizes patient safety and engagement and to improve health outcomes for older adults. Much of its work is focused on long term care
- The program offers a weekly online support group meeting and multiple online resources for advance care planning, ethical decisions, and how to prepare and support residents, staff, families, and themselves
https://clas.uiowa.edu/socialwork/nursing-home/national-nursing-home-social-work-network

Kentucky (KY)
TEAM Kentucky
- On November 25, 2020, TEAM Kentucky released Contingency and Crisis Staffing Strategies for Health Care Facilities
https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/covid19/ContingencyandCrisisStaffingStrategiesforHealthcareFacilities.pdf

TEAM Kentucky (Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Kentucky Public Health)
- On November 25, 2020, TEAM Kentucky released Guidance for Health Care Personnel for Work while in Quarantine or Isolation
https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/covid19/GuidanceforHealthcarePersonnelforWorkwhileinQuarantineorIsolation.pdf

Louisiana (LA)
Louisiana Department of Health (LDH)
- Launched a pilot in response to COVID-19 on April 22, 2020 to help facilities with acute health care staffing shortages fill those vacancies with qualified candidates who are otherwise out of work
- Launched Louisiana Health Work Connect pilot in Baton Rouge with plans for a subsequent statewide rollout. Any qualified nursing home or hospital in the Baton Rouge area can participate in the program. Interested health care workers submit their information and qualifications using a form. Participating health care facilities regularly update the Department on their staffing needs
- The Department provides a list of candidates to facilities tailored to their staffing needs. A participating facility then contacts a health care worker to begin the hiring process
https://healthworkconnect.la.gov
- Assembled the LDH Nursing Home Facility Toolkit for nursing home support. This toolkit provides state and best practice guidance for personal protective equipment (PPE), information about an option for safely sanitizing N95 masks for re-use, staffing resources, and testing recommendations, along with a variety of pertinent contact numbers
http://ldh.la.gov/assets/medicaid/hss/docs/Coronavirus_2019/LDH_NH_Facility_Toolkit.pdf
- Rolled out the Louisiana Get Back to Work Safely Tool on June 10, 2020. The survey helps employees identify their risks from COVID-19 and provides recommendations for staying healthy
https://ldhcovid19.typeform.com/to/YWNtvZ

Maryland (MD)
FutureCare Nursing Homes
- Employee support videos by Dr. William Mansbach provide tips on managing stress during the COVID-19 pandemic
  https://futurecare.com/employeesupport

Health Facilities Association of Maryland
- David Combs, a photographer, composer, and producer of instrumental music, is offering free access to many of his music videos via YouTube. His soothing and relaxing music has proven to play a constructive role in reducing the stress and anxiety in the current stressful environment of isolation in health care facilities
  https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrvuWa0VW2Umc5NgQyUQKMg

Maryland Department of Health
- Issued Novemeber, 11, 2020, Health Care Worker Exemptions and Contingency Capacity Standards to Mitigate Health Care Staffing Shortages: Revised guidance for health care staff working if they have been advised to quarantine because of an exposure to COVID-19, allows health care facilities to conduct risk assessments and make decisions about whether specific asymptomatic staff who are quarantined because of household or other community exposures to a confirmed case may continue to work while quarantined. The work excuse letter provided by the Department of Health contact tracers during case investigations has been modified for cases who indicate they work in health care settings to reflect that although they have been advised to quarantine, they may follow the guidance of their employer regarding working during quarantine
  https://files.constantcontact.com/c16fad48501/eb16d55d-54a7-41ae-88ee-3848891ecb20.pdf

Massachusetts (MA)
Mass.gov
- Created a Rapid Response Clinical Team & Staff Resource on April 15, 2020 to provide short-term support for facilities with high volume of cases or with critical staffing needs
- Enacted a 10 percent MassHealth rate increase (approximately $50 million) across the board for all nursing facilities
- A long term care portal matches individuals that have registered through the portal with the staffing requests submitted by facilities (with a $1,000 sign on bonus)
  https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-updates-and-information

Michigan (MI)
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)
- On October 19,2020, MDHHS announced a $3.9 million project funded through the CARES Act that offers retention payment to newly hired health care workers. The goal is to hire/retain at least 2,000 workers by year end. Workers could receive up to $1,600 if they complete training and 300 hours of work by December 30, 2020
  https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98158-542668--,00.html
- MDHHS will be offering Rapid Response Staffing Resources in select counties to assist long term care facilities experiencing staffing shortages. Rapid Response Staffing Resources will be available to nursing homes, assisted living centers, homes for the aged, and adult foster care

homes
   o   Facilities facing shortages can request a maximum of one registered nurse and four certified nursing assistance/resident care assistants per shift
   o   MDHHS will provide up to a total of 72 consecutive hours of staffing coverage, supplied by 22nd Century Technologies, Inc. (TSCTI) https://www.michigan.gov/documents/coronavirus/Rapid_Response_Staffing_Guidance_for_LTC_Facilities_Final_695568_7.pdf

- On September 15, 2020 MDHHS expanded its rapid response staffing program aiding long term care facilities with staffing shortages. The newly expanded program offers up to 120 hours of staffing assistance to facilities across the state. New staffing options have also been added to include licensed practical nurses, social workers, direct care workers, dietary aides, dietary cooks, and environmental services staff https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98158-539674--,00.html

Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity
- Offers a one-stop shop for workplace health promotion that gives employers resources to create a healthy work environment. There is a breakout by industry, including healthcare. https://www.michigan.gov/leo/0,5863,7-336-100207---,00.html

State of Michigan, Office of Governor Gretchen Whitmer
- On September 10, 2020 Governor Whitmer's office announced a new program that offers essential, frontline workers a tuition-free path to community college. The "Futures for Frontliners" program is available to adult workers who provided essential services during statewide Stay Home, Safe Orders (between April to June 2020). This first in the nation program creates a tuition-free path for Michigan adults without college degrees or high school diplomas to gain the skills necessary to obtain high-demand, high-wage careers. In addition to the medical field, funding is available to essential workers in manufacturing, nursing homes, grocery stores, sanitation, delivery, retail and more https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98158-539206--,00.html

Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Michigan Medicine
- The multi-institutional collaborative is developing tools to support hospitals, nursing homes, and other medical institutions in projecting front-line workforce needs, re-deploying clinical teams, and protecting the health and well-being of providers
- Tools include a hospital staffing needs calculator, staffing needs projections, COVID-19 response planner, staffing surveys and allocation tools, daily personal protective equipment usage calculator, provider care and resources, and educational resources https://www.covidstaffing.org

Wayne State University Institute of Gerontology
- Researchers at Wayne State University and Eastern Michigan University are studying the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on front line health care workers https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Covid-19---Healthcare-Wellness-Survey.html?soid=1109914538426&aid=zVaADxY48ew

Minnesota (MN)
Care Providers of Minnesota
- Established a long term care (LTC) support line for LTC workers and family members who need to talk with someone about difficult situations during the COVID-19 pandemic
https://www.careproviders.org/members/2020/LTCSupportLineFlyer.pdf

Minnesota Department of Health
- As of October 22, 2020, an updated version of the "COVID-19 Recommendations for Health Care Workers" document on the MDH website. The updated document includes recommendations for workers who have had: 1) a high-risk workplace exposure to COVID-19; and 2) household, intimate or close community contacts with confirmed or suspected COVID19.
https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/hcp/hcwrecs.pdf
- Developed video about self-care and applying psychological first aid for COVID-19 responders
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m8vEFrQr9co&feature=youtu.be
- Developed Best Practices for Masks: Considerations for People with Disabilities and Special Health Needs
https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/guidemasks.pdf

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Minnesota
- The NAMI Minnesota, in collaboration with McCubbin Training and LeadingAge Minnesota, are offering free, online training to help staff and caregivers develop personal strategies for managing stress and practicing self-care
https://rise.articulate.com/share/RcMYbAt9S1DRYjbwB7c1H3gi0PHAg4AC#/

Statewide Health Care Coordination Center
- Partnered with stakeholders, such as the Board of Nursing, to recruit nursing staff to work in long term care facilities that are not able to fully staff due to staff illness

Missouri (MO)
University of Missouri Sinclair School of Nursing's Quality Improvement Program for Missouri (QIPMO)
- QIPMO is a cooperative service between the University of Missouri Sinclair School of Nursing and the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. It is composed of gerontological nurses who provide education on best practices to improve care delivery and outcomes for nursing home residents
- QIPMO hosts nursing home leadership support group meetings from which the best practices emerged from participating homes:
  o Alternating staff in teams (one team of 7-10, including housekeeping, dietary, nursing, and one from nursing administration) work 5-7 days on, then 5-7 days off
  o Staff team in 12-hour shifts—again, all staff—this keeps the consistency of patients to staff and allows the staff real rest time, which otherwise they are not getting
  o COVID-19-specific teams in 12-hour rotations
  o Cross-training of staff for housekeeping tasks in the COVID-19 unit to minimize the number of people in the unit
  o Place for staff to change and keep their street clothes, perhaps even shower so it reduces the spread and reduces staff anxiety about bringing it out of the building
https://nursinghomehelp.org/qipmo-program

Montana (MT)
Montana Healthcare Mutual Aid System (MHMAS)
- MHMAS is the emergency system for the advance registration of volunteer health professionals for the state of Montana. It serves as the system for identifying, activating, and deploying volunteers during disasters, and functions as a communication tool to provide volunteers with information about training and exercises
  https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/phep/mhmas

Nebraska (NE)
The National Emerging Special Pathogen Training and Education Center (NETEC)
- NETEC developed a webinar to support health care workers in managing the unique challenges in a pandemic and the elements of a comprehensive "care of the caregiver" strategy, including peer support, building resilience, streamlined behavioral health referrals, preventing moral injury, supporting health care worker families, and leadership. The webinar includes downloadable resources to implement a program
  https://www.nebraskamed.com/for-providers/covid19/workforce-behavioral-health-support

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (NDHHS)
  NDHHS posted November and December 2020 public hearing dates for review and discussion of proposed regulation changes which include nursing facilities and nursing programs
  http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Upcoming-Public-Hearings.aspx
- Updated on November 20 2020, to include Hospice services, Provider Bulletin 20-42 was issued to notify Nursing and Assisted Living Facilities that participate in Nebraska's Medicaid program of a temporary increase in Per Diem rates. For dates of service between May 1, 2020, and December 31, 2020, Nebraska Medicaid is seeking federal approval from Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to increase Per Diem rates by $20 per day
  http://dhhs.ne.gov/Medicaid%20Provider%20Bulletins/Provider%20Bulletin%2020-42%20(Updated%2011.20.20).pdf

Nevada (NV)
State of Nevada
- Battle Born Volunteers
- State licensed nursing pools provided as a resource to facilities that require assistance with staffing

New Hampshire (NH)
New Hampshire Employment Security
- Established the Long Term Care Workforce Stabilization Program

- This temporary stabilization funding incentivizes front line, direct-care workers to remain or rejoin this critical workforce during the COVID-19 emergency
https://www.nhes.nh.gov/services/employers/longtermcare.htm

New Jersey (NJ)
New Jersey Department of Health (NJDH)
- NJDH maintains a webpage dedicated to COVID-19 Information for Healthcare Professionals. Several guidance documents were updated in early August 2020, including: Guidance for COVID-19 Diagnosed and/or Exposed Healthcare Personnel, Quick Reference – Discontinuation of Transmission-Based Precautions and Home Isolation for Persons Diagnosed with COVID-19, Considerations for Cohorting COVID-19 Patients in Post-Acute Care Facilities, and Hand Hygiene in Healthcare Settings.
https://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/topics/covid2019_healthcare.shtml
- The State of New Jersey COVID-19 Jobs and Hiring Portal provides job postings for those out of work due to COVID-19 as well as an additional link for employers to post open positions related to COVID-19
https://jobs.covid19.nj.gov/?Facets.filterbox.filter0=%5B%5D&Facets.filterbox.filter1=%5B%5D
- The Road Back: Restoring Economic Health Through Public Health references six key principles for stages of reopening businesses and safely staffing them in New Jersey
https://covid19.nj.gov/faqs/nj-information/general-public/how-does-new-jersey-plan-to-lift-restrictions-what-does-a-responsible-and-strategic-restart-of-new-jerseys-economy-look-like

New Jersey Poison Center
- Introduced a health hotline to address the concerns of New Jersey residents. Anyone in the state of New Jersey can call 1-800-962-1253 to speak directly with a health care professional who can provide general information and answer questions about the current outbreak
https://www.njpies.org/coronavirus

Office of the Governor Phil Murphy
- Facilities are expected to provide basic safety and infection orientation
- Facilities must document attempts to meet the staffing standards

New Mexico (NM)
State of New Mexico
- Nursing homes have designated staff for COVID-19 wings, which helps staff take ownership of these residents
- Some staff are now asking to be part of the designated COVID-19 staff team, whereas previously facilities had staff resigning once active cases were identified
- Condensed certified nursing assistant (CNA)/ certified medical assistant (CMA) training program to reduce training time without reducing quality
- Removed restrictions on out-of-state health care workers to assist in COVID-19 response

New York (NY)
LeadingAge New York
- The organization's free, nine-hour basic care aide skill competency course for individuals seeking employment as a temporary nursing assistant is available to both members and non-members and shares the knowledge needed to perform person-centered tasks in nursing homes. Many

state waivers now allow for this testing to assist with staffing during the COVID-19 public health emergency
https://learninghub.leadingage.org/courses/basic-care-aide-skill-competency

New York State Health Facilities Association, New York State Center for Assisted Living
- COVID-19 – Skilled Nursing Facility Visitation Guidance: Utilizing Non-Direct Care Staff to Support Needs describes how some direct or non-direct, non-urgent care can be redirected during the pandemic to assist staff in essential activities. Typical Nurse Aide duties can be shifted to other non-direct care staff so Aides can support staff and resident care
https://www.nyshfa-nyscal.org/covid-19-skilled-nursing-facility-visitation-guidance

Office of the Governor Andrew Cuomo
- The Governor and the Commissioner of Health have sent out letters to active and inactive licensees in New York State seeking volunteers to assist in the COVID-19 response efforts
http://www.op.nysed.gov/COVID-19Volunteers.html

North Carolina (NC)
North Carolina Division of Health and Human Services
- Established online registration for medical providers interested in picking up additional staffing that includes long term care facilities
- These applications will be matched with requests from health care facilities
https://nc.readyop.com/fs/4cjq/697b

North Dakota (ND)

Valley Senior Living on Columbia, Grand Forks
- A critical staffing matrix was created and utilized to plan for a worst case scenario in which the facility would know the lowest staffing needs to care safely for residents. The Matrix suggests nursing, med aide, and CNA coverage for each unit

Ohio (OH)
Ohio Department of Health
- Responsible Restart Ohio: A Guide for Health Care designed to provide insight and best practices to resume non-urgent health care services across the state through a stepwise approach. This guide is intended to be a resource for patients, providers, health systems, and Ohio's COVID-19 Three Zone response infrastructure as the state begins to resume typical standards of health care
https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/RestartOhio-Health-Care-Guide.pdf
- COVID-19 Checklist: Recommendations for essential employees in health care and other high risk settings on actions to help protect their households from COVID-19
https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/checklists/english-checklists/high-risk-workers-returning-home-covid-19-checklist
- The Congregate Care Unified Response Bridge Team responds to a nursing facility's identified need in emergency situations. The team will collect relevant information from the facility and others on the ground to assist decision making. Once activated, the Bridge Team will coordinate facility communication with all relevant state agencies, the Emergency Operations Center, health care zones, hospitals in the area, and the local health department to provide immediate

assistance
https://www.ohca.org/docs/documents/5963/BRIDGE%20TEAM%20GUIDANCE%20AND%20INFO%20FINAL_6.1.20201617139567.pdf

Ohio Department of Medicaid
- Significantly enhanced Medicaid's telehealth policy to allow reimbursement for a wider group of practitioners, services, and setting, including those delivered to residents in nursing facilities and other long term care settings. This was part of the state's overall effort to help reduce exposure to COVID-19 for patients, their families, and the health care workforce engaged in Ohio's response to the pandemic
https://medicaid.ohio.gov/COVID/ODM-Emergency-Telehealth

Rhode Island (RI)
Brown University
- Brown University has initiated a national survey of frontline staff in long term care facilities to understand their responses to COVID-19, document front line experiences, and rapidly disseminate best practices
https://www.brown.edu/academics/public-health/qandi/news/2020/05/survey-long-term-care-staff-working-during-pandemic-now-live

Rhode Island Responds
- Offers recruitment and management of Rhode Island's health care volunteers under one statewide system
http://www.riresponds.org

Tennessee (TN)
Vanderbilt University Medical Center, the University of Michigan, the Procedural Learning and Safety Collaborative
- Volunteers created a website to help hospitals and nursing facilities of all sizes anticipate their staffing and personal protective equipment (PPE) needs for the COVID-19 surge. Modules included:
    - COVID-19 Staffing Needs Calculator: Calculated staffing needs by clinical role as inpatient census increased
    https://www.covidstaffing.org/modules/staffing-needs
    - COVID-19 Response Planner: Planned a phased staffing response to COVID-19, based on available beds, staff, and locations
    https://www.covidstaffing.org/modules/response-planner
    - Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Needs Calculator: Calculated PPE needs as inpatient census increased
    https://www.covidstaffing.org/modules/daily-ppe-calculator
    - Staff Skills Surveys: Determined staff skills specific to COVID-19 patient care needs
    https://www.covidstaffing.org/modules/supply
    - Role Allocation Toolkits: Based on staff and trainee skills, assessed COVID-19 patient care roles where staff members could re-deploy
    https://www.covidstaffing.org/modules/supply

Texas (TX)
State of Texas Assistance Request (STAR), Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC)
• To ensure the safety of residents in facilities that have COVID-19-infected staff, Texas has contingency contracts to provide short-term staffing assistance to facilities that cannot maintain adequate staffing due to COVID-19. This assistance may be requested through a STAR (State of Texas Assistance Request) in coordination with HHSC or local emergency management

Texas Department of Health and Human Services
• Emergency Rule Enhancements for nursing facilities include that each facility must have a COVID-19 response plan that includes designated staff to work with cohorts of residents who have tested positive for COVID-19, and staff should not change designation from one day to another, unless required to maintain adequate staffing for a cohort
https://hhs.texas.gov/about-hhs/communications-events/news/2020/08/hhsc-allow-limited-visitation-nursing-facilities-long-term-care-facilities

Virginia (VA)
Virginia Department of Health (VDH)
• VDH developed a resource page that provides information and the tools to request and mobilize volunteers from the Virginia Medical Reserve Corp to provide long term care staffing and medical surge support needed for COVID-19 response in the Commonwealth
https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/mrc/covid19request

West Virginia (WV)
Stonerise Healthcare LLC
• Stonerise, a nursing home chain in West Virginia, has started "safe harbor" units used to safely accept new admissions. Safe harbor is designed exclusively for all new admissions, distinct units with dedicated staff, and more stringent admission criteria to limit the risk of COVID-19 to existing patients
http://www.stonerisehealthcare.com/coronavirus-update

West Virginia Responder Emergency Deployment Information (REDI) System
• Web-based system was developed to facilitate health and medical response through identification, credentialing, and deployment of West Virginians willing to serve in an emergency, as well as non-emergent situations
• Registration is open to West Virginia's health and medical professionals, as well as others who live or work in West Virginia and are willing to assist during a health-related emergency or event
https://www.wvredi.org

Wisconsin (WI)
Department of Health Services WisCaregiver Career Program
• Goal is to connect nursing homes with qualified nursing assistants. Nursing assistants are provided a $500 bonus following six months of work
https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/caregiver-career/cna.htm

Wisconsin Department of Health Services
• Nurse Aide training was revised by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Division of Quality Assurance to address the unprecedented need for additional nursing assistants to join

the workforce
https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/nurse-aide.htm

- See this form for state reporting of Nursing Home Notification of Intent to Use Asymptomatic, COVID-19 Positive Staff
https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/library/f-02734.htm

Alabama (AL)
University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), Rehab Select at Talladega
- Opened a special 16-bed unit to treat patients from nursing home facilities who have COVID-19. The unit will be housed in a separate building on the campus of Rehab Select at Talladega and is funded through the state's coronavirus relief fund. This will be UAB's second unit that is designed to serve the region and begins accepting patients on October 5 https://www.uab.edu/news/health/item/11588-special-unit-to-treat-nursing-home-patients-with-covid-19-opens-in-talladega-county

California (CA)
California Department of Public Health
- Provided resources for skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) on preventing, detecting and preparing for COVID-19 through the following:
- A toolkit titled "Preparing for COVID-19 in California Skilled Nursing Facilities" https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/CDPH%20Document%20Library/AFL-20-25-Attachment-01-SNF-Checklist.pdf
- A toolkit titled "Assessment of California Skilled Nursing Facilities to Receive Patients with Confirmed COVID-19" https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/CDPH%20Document%20Library/AFL-20-25-Attachment-05-SNF-Assessment-Checklist.pdf
- A toolkit titled "Detection and Management of COVID-19 Cases in Skilled Nursing Facilities" https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/CDPH%20Document%20Library/AFL-20-25-Attachment-02-SNF-Flowchart.pdf

San Mateo County Health and the Health Plan of San Mateo
- Announced Centers of Excellence Program for Skilled Nursing Facilities
- Designated three skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) as Centers of Excellence to proactively coordinate care for COVID-19 residents, which were identified for their high standards of patient care and expertise with infection control
- Centers of Excellence will treat COVID-19-positive patients discharged from local hospitals, as well as patients from community settings who have COVID-19 and require a higher level of care https://www.smchealth.org/sites/main/files/file-attachments/san_mateo_county_health_press_release_centers_for_excellence_skilled_nursing_facilities_april_21st_2020_1.pdf

Connecticut (CT)
Northbridge Health Care Center (NHCC)
- As a COVID-19 home, NHCC has established routines and care that lend comfort to residents and staff alike https://ctmirror.org/2020/05/01/a-visit-outside-a-home-where-all-the-patients-have-covid-19

Georgia (GA)
Georgia Department of Public Health
- During a recent Georgia Department of Public Health COVID-19 update call, the director of nursing for a nursing home located in southeast Georgia shared its COVID-19 containment strategies. The facility has had no COVID-19 cases since March 2020:
  - Infection control practices started early to include temperatures of staff and residents
  - Isolation plans were implemented for residents coming from the hospital, dialysis, or other external sources
  - The facility conducted frequent staff education and requested that staff only work in its facility and not others
  - Open windows allow fresh air in the building and residents have outdoor time with social distancing
  - The National Guard has assisted with cleaning
  - The facility continually communicates with families on pandemic activities, including testing as required by the state of Georgia
  - Leadership is committed to keeping all lines of communication open with staff, residents, and families to contain travel and reduce public exposure for the protection of the residents and staff

Idaho (ID)
The Idaho Healthcare Association, Idaho Department of Health
- In Idaho, the prevalence of active COVID-19 cases in nursing homes is relatively low. The Idaho Healthcare Association, the Idaho Department of Health, and the long term care community have contributed ideas to a state actions report
- Larger nursing home corporations are setting up COVID-19-only units for COVID-19-positive residents and for residents transferred from hospitals for treatment of COVID-19

Massachusetts (MA)
Mass.gov
- Approaches to expand capacity for dedicated COVID-19 skilled nursing facilities have included converting existing occupied facilities to fully dedicated COVID-19 facilities; converting empty facilities to new dedicated COVID-19 nursing facilities; and creating dedicated COVID-19 wings within a broader nursing facility
- On-site management and operational support has been provided to assist with staffing, vendors, implementing infection control measures, etc.
  https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-updates-and-information

Minnesota (MN)
Minnesota Department of Health
- Bed tracking and cohorting is available to help the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) identify and communicate to homes where there are private rooms, cohorted units, and cohorted buildings to help facilitate care of COVID-19 nursing home residents. Providers are asked to complete a MDH Red Cap survey. Data from the survey is uploaded into the MNTrac system
  https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/hsem/seoc/Pages/default.aspx
- COVID-19 case workers are assigned once a nursing home has a COVID-19-positive case. Case

managers make daily calls to congregate facilities to help them manage their cases

- The case manager is responsible for communicating, collaborating, and coordinating the care of the COVID-positive residents and develops an infection prevention plan to keep staff and other residents safe
- Principles for COVID-19 Cohorting in Long Term Care
  https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/hcp/ltcipchohort.pdf

Nebraska (NE)
Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (NDHHS)

- See this link for a library of NDHHS COVID-19 webinars, updated regularly
  https://icap.nebraskamed.com/covid-19-webinars

Nevada (NV)
Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health

- Issued technical bulletin to health care facilities that included cohorting information
- Issued chief medical officer orders regarding cohorting to facilities experiencing infection control issues

New Mexico (NM)
State of New Mexico

- A COVID-19-only nursing home opened with the support of the health care association and the state survey agency, offering a creative way to address reimbursement of beds that remain open for future COVID-19-positive patients
- An NCI was developed for special populations in a seriously affected rural areas
- Medical shelters were created statewide to provide medical monitoring for self-isolating COVID-19-positive individuals

New York (NY)
Greater New York Hospital Association (GNYHA) Continuing Care Leadership Coalition (CCLC)

- Two New York nursing homes that continue to share their dialysis service quality practice during the COVID-19 outbreak separate COVID-19-positive patients in an isolation room. As the number of COVID-19-positive patients increase, and only if numbers go beyond the isolation room capacity, positive patients will cohort in one unit under Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines. All patients and staff are masked at all times; handwashing practices are strictly enforced; all dialysis chairs are six feet or more from each other; and routine practice includes cleaning of all surfaces with bleach (1:10 solution) between uses
  http://www.cclcny.org

South Carolina (SC)
South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC)

- The DHEC created on demand education called, "Managing the Flow of Residents – Cohorting during COVID Times" to guide nursing homes on best practices for cohorting residents
  https://www.scdhec.gov/infectious-diseases/viruses/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/managing-flow-residents-cohorting-during-covid-19-times

Texas (TX)
Texas Health and Human Services Commission Regulatory Services
- Created COVID-19 response plan for nursing facilities, which is updated regularly based on federal guidance and state COVID-19 response actions.
- Nursing facilities have created plans for cohorting residents with symptoms of respiratory infection
https://hhs.texas.gov/sites/default/files/documents/doing-business-with-hhs/provider-portal/long-term-care/nf/covid-response-nursing-facilities.pdf

Utah (UT)
State of Utah
- Created an official YouTube account, Utah Coronavirus, for COVID-19 response and information. A new set of video resources are available, including the "Protect Yourself" video playlist that includes tips for self-isolation, proper mask wearing, hand hygiene and more
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLa8O8Iicbk0umwGmBF323D-Iv0m2TIbjC
- In Utah, a COVID-19-only nursing home opened with the support of the health care association and the state survey agency, offering creative ways to handle reimbursement of beds that remain open for future positive COVID-19 patients

California (CA)
California Department of Public Health
- Provided resources for skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) to help prevent, detect, and prepare for COVID-19 through the following:
- A toolkit titled "Assessment of California Skilled Nursing Facilities to Receive Patients with Confirmed COVID-19"
  https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/CDPH%20Document%20Library/AFL-20-25-Attachment-05-SNF-Assessment-Checklist.pdf
- A toolkit titled "Detection and Management of COVID-19 Cases in Skilled Nursing Facilities"
  https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/CDPH%20Document%20Library/AFL-20-25-Attachment-02-SNF-Flowchart.pdf

Health Services Advisory Group (HSAG)
- HSAG infection preventionists created a mini-webinar series to assist nursing homes with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) COVID-19 Focused Survey for Nursing Homes. The series highlights the components of the survey and provides guidance. Each 10-minute section is meant to be reviewed with nursing home staff members, possibly during daily huddles. Sections include:
  - Part 1 and 2: General Standard Precautions and Hand Hygiene
  - Part 2: Transmission-Based Precautions
  - Part 2.1: Personal Protective Equipment
  - Part 3: Resident Care and Infection Prevention Standards, Policies, and Procedures
  - Parts 4 and 5: Infection Surveillance
  - Parts 6 and 7: Visitor Entry, Education, Monitoring, and Screening of Staff
  - Parts 8 and 9: Emergency Preparedness, Staffing in Emergencies, and a Summary of the Survey
    https://www.hsag.com/en/covid-19/long-term-care-facilities/cms-covid-19-focused-survey-for-nhs

Colorado (CO)
Office of the Governor Jared Polis
- The Strike Force Team set a goal to conduct proactive widespread asymptomatic testing for both nursing home residents and staff, to identify cases early and minimize the potential for an outbreak. The team has prioritized facilities serving the most residents, as they are at the highest risk for an outbreak
- To date, 110,690 testing kits have been distributed to 176 facilities who have indicated they just need support with supplies. Governor Polis has asked the federal government to extend the National Guard deployment past the current authorization in August to assist with these efforts
  https://www.eptrail.com/2020/07/24/colorado-covid-19-response-update

Florida (FL)
Orlando Health System
- Orlando Health System implemented "COVID Safety Officers (CSOs)" in all its facilities. This health system includes acute care, two long term care facilities and physician practices. Every shift, a designated staff person is the CSO tasked to observe employees donning and doffing personal protective equipment (PPE), performing appropriate hand hygiene, and assuring that all other infection control and prevention policies and procedures are being followed. This has provided a level of reassurance to the long term care facilities in the greater Orlando area when accepting transfers from acute care from this health system

Idaho (ID)
The Idaho Healthcare Association, Idaho Department of Health
- The Office of the Governor Brad Little COVID-19 strike team has focused primarily on supporting hospitals and nursing homes by releasing emergency funding and enacting stay-at-home guidance

Indiana (IN)
The Indiana State Department of Health Division of Survey and Certification
- Developed COVID-19-focused state survey requirements
- Created strike teams to conduct testing in nursing homes when potential or positive COVID-19 cases are seen in residents or staff members

Iowa (IA)
Iowa Department of Public Health
- Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) summarizes their strike team and preparedness planning. Iowa's four public health response teams assist local partners across Iowa in responding to public health emergencies. Members of each team are volunteers from health care institutions, local public health and environmental health agencies, county medical examiner's offices, private industry, Office of the State Medical Examiner and IDPH staff. Iowa's volunteer response partners have been an important part of the public health response system since the first team was established in 2003
https://idph.iowa.gov/BETS/preparedness/ph-response

Office of the Governor Kim Reynolds
- A testing strike team was sent to Tama County in response to an outbreak at a long term care facility. All staff at the facility were tested for COVID-19

Kentucky (KY)
Kentucky Health and Family Services Cabinet
- As mentioned on Kentucky.com, the Kentucky Health and Family Services Cabinet will utilize nurse strike teams that consist of two licensed nurses and four certified nurse assistants. Interim assignment is to achieve staffing stability equal to 3-7 days. The Cabinet uses an agency to hire those individuals, and the Emergency Preparedness Branch manages the logistics. The strike teams are mentioned near the end of this linked article about short staffing in Kentucky nursing homes
https://www.kentucky.com/news/coronavirus/article246772222.html

Michigan (MI)
Michigan Department of Health & Human Services
- The Michigan Department of Health & Human Services (MDHHS) Infection Prevention Resource and Assessment Team (IPRAT) is a team of subject matter experts from the Communicable Disease Division. The IPRAT is a group that local health departments (LHDs) and/or long term care facilities (LTCs) can go to with questions about infection prevention, personal protective equipment (PPE), and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance interpretation. The onsite teams component of IPRAT uses a referral inbox tor triages requests from organizations. The onsite teams consist of infection preventionists, data analysts, and a nurse. This team also uses proactive outreach to nursing homes in counties with widespread activity but who have reported 0-1 cases in the past four weeks
https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-71550_5104_55205_55207-528363--,00.html

Mississippi (MS)
Mississippi State Department of Health, Office of Epidemiology
- Created regional outbreak response teams to facilitate testing in nursing homes when potential or positive COVID-19 cases are seen in residents or staff members. Providing guidance and support to nursing homes with outbreaks

Montana (MT)
Montana Department of Health and Human Services
- Governor Bullock established five strike teams made up of a certified nurse and National Guard Members to be deployed across Montana to respond to COVID-19 cases in nursing homes and long term care facilities or to provide training and assistance with proper infectious disease control protocols as requested
https://dphhs.mt.gov/aboutus/news/2020/frameworktorampuptestingcapacity

Nebraska (NE)
Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
- Facilities are to reach out to Nebraska Infection Control Assessment and Promotion Program (ICAP) and their local health departments if they identify a COVID-19 outbreak. ICAP will then assist the facilities with the implementation of the Red-Yellow-Green-Gray process. The survey agency team relies on ICAP to serve as their strike team
https://icap.nebraskamed.com

New Jersey (NJ)
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
- The VA organized five 10-person health care strike teams in five New Jersey nursing homes, consisting of VA medical workers, clinical staff, nurses, and nursing assistants
https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/federal-va-to-send-strike-teams-to-coronavirus-stricken-nj-nursing-homes-as-deaths-mount/ar-BB145Fnr

New Mexico (NM)
State of New Mexico
- Implemented enhanced respiratory surveillance in long term care facilities to rapidly identify any potential outbreaks of COVID-19

New York (NY)
Continuing Care Leadership Coalition
- Members established and educated staff regarding its COVID-19 response strategic plan
- Responses comprised the areas of clinical management; personal protective equipment (PPE) and relevant supplies inventory, procurement, distribution, use and conservation; staff management and volunteer coordination; wellness and symptom monitoring; risk assessment; establishment of criteria for testing; infection control; non-essential personnel suspension; immediate reporting of significant changes in resident and/or staff condition; ancillary services management; partnership with hospitals; advance care planning establishment or review; and ongoing communication with staff, residents and families
http://cclcny.org/providing-quality-across-the-continuum/care-coordination-across-the-continuum

New York State Department of Health
- COVID-19 Infection Control Guidance for Nursing Homes and Adult Care Facilities: Official state guidance regarding infection control practices, case reporting, and other vital aspects of the COVID-19 response in nursing homes in New York
https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/03/covid-

19infectioncontrolguidanceguidancewebinarfornhsandacfs3-26-20.pdf
- Interim Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfection of Public and Private Facilities for COVID-19: Official state recommendations regarding supplies and processes to be utilized to reduce transmission of COVID-19 https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/03/cleaning_guidance_general_building.pdf

New York State Office of Information Technology Services
- In response to the COVID-19 crisis, New York State initiated a Technology SWAT Team led by the Office of Information Technology Services and Department of Financial Services to secure pro bono partnerships with the private sector to aid in the state's response efforts. The Tech SWAT effort brought in private sector experts to work on critical projects, assist in building new applications, and train NY State employees on technical skills necessary for responding to the crisis. The Playbook provides recommendations and guidelines for any government entity that is standing up a similar effort and highlights challenges that government entities will want to consider when standing up and managing their SWAT teams https://www.ny.gov/sites/ny.gov/files/atoms/files/nys-tech-swat-playbook.pdf

North Dakota (ND)
Valley Senior Living on Columbia, Grand Forks
- Valley Senior Living implemented a strike team and procedure for communicating a COVID-19 positive resident. The procedure outlines when the notification occurs and by whom, who to contact immediately (including phone numbers), and the use of walkie talkies to notify staff internally. The document outlines when to call huddles, personal protective equipment (PPE) utilization, hand hygiene, and communication for the resident families. The procedure then outlines the communication to the COVID-19 Care Team, Contact Tracing Team, Social Services notification to families, Operations to perform Zoom huddles with IDT and COVID-19 Command Team for briefing, as well as communication for Environmental Services

Oklahoma (OK)
Oklahoma State Department of Health
- The Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) COVID-19 Vaccination Plan includes deploying strike teams to ensure equitable distribution and attention is paid to successful administration of the vaccine to Oklahoma's most vulnerable populations https://coronavirus.health.ok.gov/sites/g/files/gmc786/f/state_of_oklahoma_covid-19_vaccination_plan.pdf

South Dakota (SD)
South Dakota Department of Health
- On November 3, 2020, the South Dakota Department of Health published its COVID-19 Vaccination Plan. The plan includes vaccination strike teams, Points of Dispensing (PODs), and mobile vaccination units for broad access to the COVID-19 vaccine https://doh.sd.gov/documents/COVID19/SD_COVID-19VaccinationPlan.pdf

Texas (TX)
Texas Health and Human Services Commission

- The Rapid Assessment Quick Response Force (RA-QRF) team provides initial triage, site assessment, reviews of the facility's policies and procedures, personal protective equipment (PPE), and infection control guidelines, and provides recommendations to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. A facility can request their assistance if they are facing issues with any infection prevention and control. To activate RA-QRF team assistance, facilities should contact the long term care regulation (LTCR) associate commissioner at Michelle.dionne-vahalik@hhsc.state.tx.us

Utah (UT)

State of Utah

- Utah has created a number of medical strike teams working to stop the spread of COVID-19. Strike teams have been deployed to various care facilities across the state. Not all deployments resulted in drastic response to COVID-19 but served as a way to educate and guide the facilities to be prepared. The teams all operate under the Utah health emergency response team (UHERT) which falls under the bureau of emergency medical service and preparedness. UHERT has taken on responsibility to ensure the Expo Center is ready for patients if the need arises https://bemsp.utah.gov/operations-and-response/response-resources/healthmedical-logistics

West Virginia (WV)

West Virginia Department of Health

- West Virginia Department of Health State officials announced on October 21, 2020, the implementation of a new system for nursing home strike teams for COVID-19 outbreaks. When an outbreak occurs, the team will be activated through the health command phone call system. The team will be made up of National Guard members and others, including infectious disease specialists, pulmonary specialists, nursing home specialists, and other physicians. Through regionalized teams around the state, the goal is to be into outbreak nursing homes within 24-48 hours of notification. The state has used strike teams at nursing homes before; however, this time the state has partnered with other organizations, as well as local health departments, and the National Guard. The strike teams are especially needed to help small nursing homes in rural areas. The state is encouraging volunteer consult teams to participate more actively https://www.wvpublic.org/government/2020-10-23/new-strike-team-formed-to-respond-to-coronavirus-outbreaks-in-w-va-nursing-homes

Alaska (AK)
Alaska State Department of Epidemiology and State Survey Agency
- Organized collaborative weekly sessions to review and provide updates to nursing homes and assisted living facilities
- Revised infection prevention assessment checklists to be relevant to smaller rural settings
- Updated survey assessment tool

California (CA)
Health Services Advisory Group (HSAG)
- HSAG infection preventionists created a mini-webinar series to assist nursing homes with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) COVID-19 Focused Survey for Nursing Homes. The series highlights the components of the survey and provides guidance. Each 10-minute section is meant to be reviewed with nursing home staff members, possibly during daily huddles. Sections include:
    o Part 1 and 2: General Standard Precautions and Hand Hygiene
    o Part 2: Transmission-Based Precautions
    o Part 2.1: Personal Protective Equipment
    o Part 3: Resident Care and Infection Prevention Standards, Policies, and Procedures
    o Parts 4 and 5: Infection Surveillance
    o Parts 6 and 7: Visitor Entry, Education, Monitoring, and Screening of Staff
    o Parts 8 and 9: Emergency Preparedness, Staffing in Emergencies, and a Summary of the Survey
    https://www.hsag.com/en/covid-19/long-term-care-facilities/cms-covid-19-focused-survey-for-nhs

Connecticut (CT)
Connecticut Department of Public Health
- Conducts on-site visits to all of Connecticut's nursing homes and long term care facilities for infection control survey
  https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Facility-Licensing--Investigations/NURSING-HOME-SITE/Nursing-Home-Inspections

Florida (FL)
Agency for Health Care Administration (SSA)
- Nursing home infection control surveys are being completed and shared on its website
  https://ahca.myflorida.com

Georgia (GA)
Georgia Department of Public Health
- The ability to provide on-site support and develop a process for video audits has been invaluable to those in "hot spots" of COVID-19 activity. The agency collects data from health care facilities on the State Electronic Notifiable Disease Surveillance System for Georgia (SENDSS) network, supports health care facilities with virtual and on-site visits, and tests COVID-19 samples at the Georgia Department of Public Health Laboratory

https://dph.georgia.gov

Indiana (IN)
The Indiana State Department of Health Division of Long-term Care
- Beginning on April 6, 2020, the Department has followed up on every new positive case, either by daily long term care surveyor phone calls or visits, to ensure a plan is in place to care for COVID-19-positive residents
- Since April 15, 2020, protocols have included:
  - 1-10 positive cases receive weekly visits and calls
  - 11-20 positive cases receive twice-weekly visits
  - 21 cases and higher receive daily visits until stable, then visits every other day
  - Positive staff cases only receive Monday, Wednesday, and Friday calls
- Referrals for infection preventionist follow-up occur with concerns or when additional assistance is needed
- The Department has contracted with a professional long term care nursing company to perform outreach and test result calls

Iowa (IA)
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)
- In combined effort with the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals (DIA), IDPH is assessing non-COVID-19 facilities with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) tele-Infection Control Assessment and Response (ICAR) tool and minimal amount of COVID-19-active cases. This is in response to urgent facility outbreak prevention needs

Montana (MT)
State of Montana
- Montana has requested that all long term care and assisted living facilities complete and submit the infection control self-assessment worksheet provided in QSO-20-14-NH dated March 13, 2020. State survey and licensing staff are reviewing all submissions and working with facilities on a case-by-case basis to strengthen infection control
- Montana is conducting targeted infection control surveys in facilities using risk-based criteria to determine facility selection and scheduling

Nevada (NV)
Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health
- Distributed infection control and prevention assessment surveys tailored to relevant settings, analyzing information to identify gaps to help target education
- Organized collaborative weekly sessions with skilled nursing facility and assisted living associations to review and provide updates to nursing homes and assisted living facilities
- Currently performing onsite infection control surveys in skilled nursing facilities, larger assisted living facilities, and long term acute care hospitals
- Collaborating with the Nevada National Guard to visit smaller group homes and provide educational materials on donning and doffing personal protective equipment (PPE), environmental cleaning, hand hygiene, and preventive measures to protect residents from contracting COVID-19. This information is being translated into Spanish and Tagalog. The National Guard will help smaller facilities order PPE if needed

New Jersey (NJ)
New Jersey Department of Health
- The New Jersey COVID-19 Information Hub provides the most up-to-date information about COVID-19 and the state's response, including information about services such as food support and small business assistance
https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/ncov.shtml

New Mexico (NM)
State of New Mexico
- Organized collaborative weekly sessions to review and provide updates to nursing homes, intermediate care facilities (ICFs), skilled nursing facilities (SNFs), and assisted living facilities
- State survey staff use video monitoring for daily surveillance calls to nursing facilities

North Dakota (ND)
North Dakota State Survey Agency
- Every nursing home in North Dakota receives a state survey visit focused on infection prevention
- The agency collaborated with the Great Plains Quality Innovation Network (QIN) using an online tool to assess all nursing homes on infection preparedness; about 30 nursing homes volunteered for a more comprehensive assessment

South Carolina (SC)
South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC)
- SC DHEC maintains a web page that provides state and federal resources and updates on changes to infection control policies and guidelines
https://scdhec.gov/infectious-diseases/viruses/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/nursing-homes-covid-19

Texas (TX)
State of Texas
- Created a surveyor job aid tool to help ensure thorough reviews during a focused infection control survey or investigation. The job aid tool details questions the surveyor must ask and information that must be gathered. It includes the tag/regulatory reference for the requirements related to the questions or information, and space for the surveyor to document information

Texas Department of Health and Human Services
- A Nursing Facility Infection Control webinar scheduled for September 18, 2020 for nursing facility surveyors and providers will offer an introduction to strategies and tools to assess and develop interventions to prevent infections in older adults and individuals with intellectual disabilities in Texas long term care settings
https://apps.hhs.texas.gov/providers/training/jointtraining.cfm
- PPE training has been offered weekly via webinar starting July 24, 2020 through August 28, 2020. The training has been extended through September 25, 2020
https://apps.hhs.texas.gov/providers/training/jointtraining.cfm
- The Texas Health and Humans Services Commission maintains a webpage of COVID-19 Provider Information which contains multiple helpful links including information about Special Issues in Skilled Nursing Facilities and Nursing Facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic, strategies to

mitigate personnel shortages, Infection control guidance, proper N95 use, and helping residents with dementia prevent the spread of COVID-19, among other topics.
https://hhs.texas.gov/services/health/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-covid-19-provider-information

Texas Department of State Health Services
- The Texas Department of State Health Services has created a robust contact tracing program and web-based application to find and follow up with people who have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. This will also be helpful for tracking cases related to nursing facility outbreaks
https://dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/tracing.aspx

Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC)
- The HHSC has published IL 20-41: Preadmission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR) Evaluations Using Telephone or Videoconferencing Interviews. Medicaid-certified nursing facilities must comply with these guidelines for PASRR Evaluations conducted by phone interviews or videoconferencing
https://apps.hhs.texas.gov/providers/communications/2020/letters/IL2020-41.pdf
- Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) published Flu Vaccine Guidance during COVID-19 (PL 20-50). The letter provides a brief overview of the Adult Influenza Vaccine Initiative and guidance on the administration of the influenza vaccine to residents and staff with and without COVID-19. The letter also informs facilities when an individual should receive the influenza vaccine, even if the facility is not the vaccine administrator
https://apps.hhs.texas.gov/providers/communications/2020/letters/PL2020-50.pdf

Virginia (VA)
Health Quality Innovators (HQI)
- Developed a COVID-19 Focused Survey Readiness Book Guide to help facilities prepare for the COVID-19 Focused Survey
https://www.hqi.solutions/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/COVID-19-Focused-Survey-Readiness-Book_5-19-2020_508.pdf

West Virginia (WV)
West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources
- The Office of Inspector General, Office of Health Facility, Licensure and Certification maintains regular contact and communication via a statewide listserv with all nursing home administrators, regional nursing home representatives, corporate nursing home representatives, the provider association, and the state long term care ombudsman to disseminate information and answer questions. In addition, the office, among other actions:
    - Coordinated the fitting of 12 nursing home surveyors with N95 masks and Tyvek suits
    - Disseminated Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance to all West Virginia nursing homes via listserv, including the Infection Control Toolkit
    - Mandated all nursing home administrators and key personnel participate in a webinar to discuss statewide testing requirements for the Governor's Executive Order

Wisconsin (WI)
Wisconsin Department of Human Services Division of Quality Assurance

- Offers weekly Q&A calls for nursing homes; shares resources for community and health care providers; and integrates the expertise of infectious disease leader Dr. Chris Crnich, State Survey Agency Bureau of Nursing Home Resident Care Director Ann Angell, and state public health leadership

Wyoming (WY)
Wyoming Aging Division, Survey and Certification Bureau and Surveillance Epidemiologist, Wyoming Healthcare Association

- The Wyoming Healthcare Association offers weekly collaborative calls and bilateral support sessions for long term care and assisted living facilities

8. NURSING HOME (NH) COMMUNICATIONS

Alaska (AK)
Office of the Governor Mike Dunleavy, Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
- The Alaska.gov website includes a unified command page with a section providing guidance and a checklist for developing critical infrastructure community/workforce protective plans
- Plans must be developed and submitted to the state prior to the start of any interstate and intra-state travel of essential employees unable to complete a 14-day self-quarantine
https://covid19.alaska.gov/unified-command

Arkansas (AR)
Arkansas Department of Health, Arkansas Healthcare Association, and Arkansas Department of Human Services Office of Long Term Care
- Arkansas Healthcare Association hosted several webinars to provide updates to AR nursing homes about statewide reopening plans and how they are working together with Arkansas Department of Health and Arkansas Department of Human Services to reopen safely

Arkansas Department of Human Services Office of Long Term Care
- The Arkansas Office of Long Term Care reached out to the Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) in their state to refer a nursing home that was not performing well

Arizona (AZ)
2-1-1 Arizona
- Launched a statewide COVID-19 Hotline that offers an entry point to field questions and concerns from Arizona residents about COVID-19
https://211arizona.org/covid-19

Bandera Healthcare
- Hosts weekly calls with key physicians in nursing homes and local nearby hospitals (e.g., hospitalists, skilled nursing facilities (SNFs), primary care providers, and infectious disease physicians) to identify gaps in knowledge, training, and personal protective equipment (PPE) issues and to provide updates on the current state of operations and address staff shortages and fears

Health Services Advisory Group (HSAG)
- Convenes a weekly call with stakeholders to coordinate communication between hospitals and nursing homes. Calls focus on providers sharing status of COVID-19 inpatients, emergency department surges, nursing home capacity, personal protective equipment (PPE) and testing resources, infection prevention training, and use of telemedicine. Participants include hospitals, nursing homes, state agencies, and nursing home trade associations
- HSAG developed a special SharePoint site that included a section for Q&As, announcements, and new resources. This site also included a nursing home bed-count tracker to improve care coordination between hospitals and post-acute care

Maricopa County Public Health Department
- Holds weekly calls with long term care providers to update the community on case counts, guidelines, personal protective equipment (PPE) distribution, and other important issues during the pandemic
  https://www.maricopa.gov/5496/Long-Term-Care-Facilities
- Facilities receive a weekly survey, which is then analyzed by county officials. Infection preventionists can then target facilities most in need of technical assistance and PPE distribution
- The Arizona Department of Human Services and Unified Command are both purchasing PPE and are prioritizing distributing the bulk of the PPE to long term care facilities for the protection of the most vulnerable
  https://www.maricopa.gov/5460/Coronavirus-Disease-2019

The Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management
- Declared a public health state of emergency for the Navajo Nation and created a web page with information, maps, and resources about the coronavirus response in their local area
  https://navajo-nation-coronavirus-response-ndoh-nec.hub.arcgis.com

Poison Control Hotline
- Developed an additional line to field COVID-19-specific questions from nursing homes across the state
- COVID-19 Hotline: 1-844-542-8201

California (CA)
California Association of Long Term Care Medicine (CALTCM)
- Has hosted weekly webinars since March 9, 2020, featuring state actions to help nursing homes understand infection prevention state actions. In addition, CALTCM actively appears in the media and writes white papers and guidelines to assist public health officials and providers to ensure the safety of nursing home residents and staff
- CALTCM developed the Long term Care Quadruple Aim, which includes 1) stellar infection control, including a full-time infection preventionist in every nursing home; 2) access to sufficient personal protective equipment (PPE); 3) readily available testing for symptomatic and asymptomatic staff and residents; and 4) incident command mode

Delaware (DE)
Delaware Health Care Facilities Association (DHCFA)
- Placed large signs with room numbers on long term care facility windows so families could easily identify their loved ones
- Initiated a cohort for medical directors, directors of nursing, and infection preventionists within nursing homes and assisted living facilities in collaboration with the AMDA – Society for Post-Acute and Long-term Care Medicine. This cohort has hosted speakers on best practices and lessons learned from other states
- A medical director listserv was created for peer-to-peer communication
- Facilitates one-on-one electronic communication with facility ombudsman to ensure families are connected to staff on important information
  https://www.dhcfa.org

Florida (FL)

Florida Department of Health and Agency for Health Care Administration
- The Florida Health Care Association hosts weekly conference calls for all nursing homes with presentations and Q&A sessions with the State Surgeon General Scott Rivkees and Secretary Mary Mayhew of the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration. Each session is recorded and posted online
https://www.fhca.org/facility_operations/coronavirus
- Information is routinely shared through Eblasts and posted on the Agency's COVID-19 website at http://ahca.myflorida.com/COVID-19_Facilities.shtml#facility

Florida Health Care Association (FHCA)
- Healthcare Heroes' Stories of Care is a special weekly communication designed to keep Florida FHCA members, legislators, state officials, and other stakeholders abreast of the positive news in the long term care profession during the COVID-19 public health emergency. To share stories and photos, please email herostories@fhca.org
https://www.fhca.org/media_center/healthcare_heroes_stories_of_care
- Created a COVID-19-dedicated web page with information on its personal protective equipment (PPE) train-the-trainer webinar and more
https://www.fhca.org/facility_operations/coronavirus
- Created a special communication designed to keep FHCA members, legislators, state officials, and other stakeholders abreast of the positive news in the long term care profession during the COVID-19 public health emergency

Florida Hospital Association (FHA), Florida Health Care Association (FHCA)
- FHA and FHCA are hosting 21 regional Acute/Post-acute Collaborative (APAC) calls. The regions are in alignment with the QIN-QIO community coalitions. The objective of these calls is to bring providers and local stakeholders together and to increase collaboration and communication, share challenges, best practices, data, support, and resources. The calls began on June 10, 2020 and will continue every four to six weeks with topics based on the communities' needs. The call schedule can be viewed on the FHCA website
https://www.fhca.org

Florida Medical Director's Association
- Convened a collaborative call with the Florida Healthcare Association, Florida Hospital Association, Emergency Medical Services, and Social Security Administration

Georgia (GA)

Georgia Medical Directors Association/Georgia Society for Post-Acute and Long term Care

- Announced the free "Grand Rounds Webinar Series" for medical directors and skilled nursing and assisted living facility leadership and staff. The series, occurring on the second Thursday of each month, will present timely topics that encourage thought, discussion and collaboration among participants. Each presentation will be uploaded to the Georgia Medical Directors Association YouTube Channel for viewing
  https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6A212OHH2mghE86D_iJS3Q

Office of the Governor Brian P. Kemp

- On June 11, 2020, Governor Kemp issued an Executive Order stating that controlled outdoor visitations may occur as part of a compassionate plan of care, so long as state guidelines are followed. The shelter-in-place order for long term facilities remains in place until July 12, 2020
  https://gov.georgia.gov/executive-action/executive-orders/2020-executive-orders
- On June 29, 2020, Governor Kemp extended the Public Health State of Emergency via Executive Order as part of the state's ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was set to expire on July 12, and has been extended to August 11 and, additionally, extends Executive Order 04.08.20.03 regarding long term care for a period of 43 days, also until August 11. As such, centers are being asked to continue to restrict facility visitation, group activities and communal dining
  https://gov.georgia.gov/executive-action/executive-orders/2020-executive-orders

Illinois (IL)

Chicago Department of Public Health

- Created a dedicated website with specific long term care guidance to implement appropriate infection prevention and control, rapidly identify potentially infected staff/visitors, monitor residents for signs and symptoms of infection, access testing for residents and facility staff, investigate clusters of COVID-19, and connect to needed resources, including personal protective equipment (PPE)
  https://www.chicagohan.org/covid-19/LTCF

Health Care Council of Illinois (HCCI)

- Developed COVID-19 Resource page, updated daily with information regarding state and federal regulations, infection control, personal protective equipment (PPE), and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) information
- Prepares weekly member newsletters and email blasts on COVID-19-related resources and events throughout the state
  http://www.hccil.org/covid-19

Illinois Department of Public Health

- Created the Coronavirus Disease 2019 website, which includes long term care guidance, information on facility outbreaks, and a link to Governor J.B. Pritzker's daily briefing
  https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19
- Alerts Illinois long term care providers daily through the COVID-19 communication plan and the State of Illinois Rapid Electronic Notification System (SIREN)
  https://www.siren.illinois.gov

https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/daily-communications

Indiana (IN)
Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH)
- ISDH unveiled a Long Term Care (LTC) COVID-19 website dedicated specifically to LTC questions and guidance for COVID-19 The website contains links for guidance on long term care facilities, visitation, personal services, essential family caregivers, and outdoor family visitation.
https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/longtermcare
- Use the following link to review November 2020 updates to ISDH guidance to long term care facilities, including upcoming holiday considerations. Check both the link for Recent Public Updates and the link for Recent Professional Updates.
https://www.coronavirus.in.gov

The Richard M. Fairbanks School of Public Health ECHO Center at Indiana University Purdue University of Indianapolis
- Developed a COVID-19-specific ECHO program effective April 1, 2020. ECHO uses Zoom teleconferencing for real-time answers from subject-matter experts to questions from physician practices, produced live and at no-cost with clinical continuing medical education (CME) credits available
https://fsph.iupui.edu/doc/COVID-19-ECHO-Launch-.pdf

Iowa (IA)
Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals
- Fields individual nursing home questions specific to survey or regulation, created a website FAQ document for support on common questions, and provides 1135 waiver guidance. During surveys, the Department encourages nursing homes to reach out to the Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) or Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) for support
https://dia.iowa.gov/about/novel-coronavirus-covid-19

Iowa Long Term Care Ombudsman
- Provides individual nursing home support for advocacy of needs at resident level
- Supports residents and families with concerns
- Encourages nursing homes to reach out to the Quality Improvement Organization, the Department of Inspections and Appeals (DIA), and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) for support
- Website houses multiple resources
https://www.iowaaging.gov/educational-resources/covid-19-older-iowans

Kansas (KS)
Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS)
- KDADS created an Isolation and Quarantine Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/DocumentCenter/View/134/Isolation--Quarantine-Guidance-and-FAQs-PDF---11-4-20?bidId=

Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services, Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), the Kansas Division of Emergency Management
- The Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services, KDHE, Kansas Department of Agriculture, and the Kansas Division of Emergency Management collaborated to create the Kansas Resource Guide for COVID-19. The guide is intended share accurate information and resources for the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of Kansas citizens. It can be used to increase both knowledge and availability of resources and services during COVID-19 https://www.kdads.ks.gov/docs/default-source/covid-19/kdhe-resource-guide/kansas-resource-guide-for-covid-19.pdf?sfvrsn=8af002ee_0

Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE)
- KDHE created a map of COVID-19 cases in Kansas containing a variety of data at the state and county level, including nursing home metrics. The nursing home metrics provides a rolling two-week percent positivity rate by county https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/160/COVID-19-in-Kansas

LeadingAge Kansas
- Guide to outdoor time for residents during COVID-19 https://lks.memberclicks.net/outdoor-time-for-residents

Kentucky (KY)
Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services
- Issued guidance titled, "Provider Guidance Update: Phased Reduction of Restrictions for Long Term Care Facilities." The guidance includes information about resuming group activities and communal dining. Beginning September 25, 2020, the two key determinants for resuming recreational and therapeutic group activities and communal dining for all long term care facilities should be 1) adhering to established social distancing guidelines of at least six feet between any two residents and 2) no new resident or staff COVID-19 cases within the past 14 days https://chfs.ky.gov/cv19/LTCFGuidancePhasedRestoration.pdf
- The Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS) developed a long term care (LTC) portal for COVID-19 resources. The "e-storefront" was developed to help LTC providers more easily find CHFS resources online, including guidance memos, FAQs, forms and instructions, and the Kentucky COVID-19 LTC county indicator https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/os/oig/dhc/Pages/cvltc.aspx
- On November 16, 2020, the Cabinet for Health and Family Services provided updated guidance on the phased reduction of restrictions for long term care facilities. This included links to the two (normalized at 100k population) incidence maps in play (one for testing frequency updated bi-weekly and one for visitation to be checked weekly) https://chfs.ky.gov/cv19/LTCFGuidancePhasedRestoration.pdf

Louisiana (LA)
Patterson Health Care
- Patterson Health Care in Patterson, Louisiana utilized a resident to help spread reminders to adopt best practices. Patterson has a nursing home resident who was a radio announcer, and he recorded 2-4 minute messages that were played overhead a few times each day to remind staff to choose best practices, such as how to choose the correct personal protective equipment

(PPE), wash their hands, and reminders to remain socially distanced

Maryland (MD)
Health Facilities Association of Maryland (HFAM)
- Provides daily email updates to facilities with information about new Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) or Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance, new Maryland Health Department transmittals, and reminders to submit COVID-19 information daily to CRISP (Chesapeake Regional Information System). They include links to the CMS weekly COVID-19 calls. There have been links to personal protective equipment (PPE) suppliers, available childcare, best practices, etc. They have included supportive letters and YouTube clips from legislators
  https://www.hfam.org/covid-19

LifeSpan Network
- Provides long term care providers with COVID-19 resources for the state of Maryland and nationwide via its website. Lifespan is the official Chesapeake Regional Information System for our Patients (CRISP) liaison for Maryland nursing homes
  https://www.lifespan-network.org/coronavirus-resources-long-term-care-providers

Lorien Health Services
- Released a CEO letter to families, giving them an update on the current status of positive COVID-19 cases amongst residents and staff in its different nursing centers
  https://www.lorienhealth.com/coronavirus-info

Massachusetts (MA)
Executive Office of Health and Human Services/MassHealth
- The Office of Health and Human Services has issued reopening guidelines on its COVID-19 website
  https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-updates-and-information#reopening-massachusetts-

Massachusetts Senior Care
- Secured donations of 750 tablets from companies including Amazon, Walmart, Teel Technologies, and Acer, as well as a financial contribution from Personable, Inc., to nursing home residents across the state to facilitate face-to-face communication with their loved ones during the COVID-19 pandemic

Minnesota (MN)
Minnesota Department of Health (MDH)
- Offers public reporting of congregate facilities with COVID-19 cases updated daily on the MDH website. MDH waits 48 hours to list the congregate facilities to allow the facility to notify residents and families
- Guidance for window visits at long term care facilities
  https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/hcp/ltcwindows.pdf
- Outdoor visitation guidance for long term care facilities
  https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/hcp/ltcoutdoor.pdf
- Contingency standards of care for COVID-19 personal protective equipment for congregated

care settings
https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/ep/surge/crisis/ppegrid.pdf
- Aerosol-generating procedures and patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19
https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/hcp/aerosol.pdf
- A framework that long term care providers can use to designate people to be essential caregivers, striking a balance between meeting residents' needs and limiting infection risks
https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/hcp/ltccaregiver.pdf

The State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC)
- The SEOC Health Care Resource Call Center is available for providers to access a special long term care line and receive prompts to reach information related to specific topics such as infection control, personal protective equipment (PPE), COVID-19 testing or licensing issues, as well as triage support in crisis management and finding a COVID-19 support site
https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/hsem/seoc/Pages/default.aspx

Missouri (MO)
Center for Practical Bioethics
- *The Center for Practical Bioethics created, "Caring Conversations in a time of COVID-19: Advance Care Planning – Always important and suddenly urgent." This resource provides six steps and related tools to help facilitate advance care planning*
https://www.practicalbioethics.org/files/pandemic/CPB-COVID-19-Tip-sheet.pdf

Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program
- Provides guidance and links to the national Long Term Care Ombudsman Resource Center, fact sheets, Q&As, newsletters, and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services communications regarding COVID-19 for long term care facilities, residents, and their families
https://health.mo.gov/seniors/ombudsman/covid-19.php

Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (MDHSS)
- The MDHSS website provides a local, zip code-level map of positive cases as well as charts/graphs of COVID-19 cases and deaths by age, sex and race. A map of testing locations also is provided, with a hotline number and resources for the public
https://www.stlcorona.com
- Issued November 17, 2020, the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) issued Guidance for Long Term Care Facilities and Beauty/Barber Shop Services for Residents. The guidance is for facilities to utilize in making decisions about resuming beauty/barber shop services
https://nursinghomehelp.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Beauty-and-Barber-Shop-Services-Memo-11-17-20.pdf

Missouri University School of Nursing – Quality Improvement Program for Missouri (QIPMO)
- QIPMO developed a "Back to Basics" handout that outlines visitation restrictions, hand washing, hydration, mobility, hygiene, and mental health
https://nursinghomehelp.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Back-to-the-Basics-with-QIPMO.pdf
- QIPMO is hosting Nursing Home Administrator Support Group calls and Director of Nursing (DON) Support Group calls. These sessions help to keep administrators and DONs up to date regarding state and federal guidelines, updates and resources

> https://nursinghomehelp.org/educational/important-information-helpful-links-on-coronavirus-covid-19

Montana (MT)
Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC)
- Provides infection control tools and resources for providers via long term care email listserv and weekly conference calls in coordination with the Montana Department of Health and Human Services
- Communicable Disease Prevention and Control Bureau APIC Chapter, Pam Webb pwebb@bresnan.net

State of Montana
- The State Emergency Coordination Center website provides COVID-19-related epidemiologic data and situational reports updated daily https://covid19.mt.gov

Nebraska (NE)
Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
- Provider Bulletin 20-44: Kepro is Nebraska's new Preadmission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR) vendor. Beginning January 1, 2021, PASRR Level I screenings and Level II PASRR evaluations and determinations must be completed in Kepro's online provider portal http://dhhs.ne.gov/Medicaid%20Provider%20Bulletins/Provider%20Bulletin%2020-44.pdf

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services - Medicaid
- Nebraska Medicaid will host regular conference calls to provide updates on its response to COVID-19. To join the call, please dial 877-399-0501, Attendee Code: 8559164#. Calls are held on the third Tuesday of every month http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Medicaid-Providers.aspx

Nevada (NV)
Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health
- Skilled nursing facilities and assisted living facilities were contacted to assess personal protective equipment (PPE) needs and prepared an inventory of facilities with PPE requests

New Jersey (NJ)
Deaf and Hard of Hearing COVID Communication Card
- Communication cards in English and Spanish are available that enable deaf or hard of hearing patients or care partners to communicate COVID-19-related related symptoms and potentially related exposure https://nj.gov/humanservices/documents/covid/Corona%20Virus%20Card%20-%202%20up-RB_v2.pdf https://nj.gov/humanservices/ddhh/assets/documents/DDHH%20CVcard-WEB-SP.pdf

New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH), New Jersey Poison Control Center
- A COVID-19 hotline is staffed by health care providers to answer questions and address concerns. The Poison Control Center works closely with the NJDOH to stay up-to-date on new or changing information, if people think they have been exposed to COVID-19

https://www.njpies.org/coronavirus

Official Site of the State of New Jersey
- The COVID-19 HUB website provides a county-based data dashboard, COVID-19 frequently asked questions (FAQs), a jobs portal, symptom checks, and state based updates
https://covid19.nj.gov

New Mexico (NM)
New Mexico Ombudsman Program
- The long term care ombudsman communicates directly with residents and families of those who have died from or contracted COVID-19
- Town Halls are used to answer questions from the public and family members and educate on resident rights, family councils and their importance and impact, technology innovations, Create Connect, and the ombudsman program
- The ombudsman is setting up a process to track and analyze the use of tablets in long term care facilities
- A tiered approach to volunteering creates a fast track to increase volunteer capacity

New Mexico State Entities (Survey Agency, Health and Human Services, Aging and Long term Services, the Health Care Association)
- State entities hold weekly 30-minute calls to support communication between nursing homes, assisted living, and intermediate care facilities for intellectually/developmentally disabled individuals with immediate needs

State of New Mexico
- Hosts weekly calls with nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and skilled nursing facilities to identify gaps in knowledge, training, and personal protective equipment (PPE) issues, provide updates on the current state of operations, and address staff shortages and fears

New York (NY)
New York City (NYC) Health
- Released a guide to well-being and emotional support to reduce stress and help manage the feeling of being overwhelmed, sad, anxious and afraid during an infectious illness outbreak such as COVID-19
- Trained professional volunteers are made available to the public at New York's COVID-19 Emotional Support Helpline
https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-mental-health.page

New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH)
- Governor Cuomo announced the implementation of a new Early Warning Dashboard to monitor and review how the virus is being contained on an ongoing basis
https://forward.ny.gov/early-warning-monitoring-dashboard

North Carolina (NC)
North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS)
- NCDHHS created the Supporting Our Long-Term Care Facilities During COVID-19 Fact Sheet that outlines COVID-19 challenges and provides NCDHHS actions and guidance to address each challenge
https://files.nc.gov/covid/documents/info-for/health-care/Supporting-Our-Long-Term-Care-Facilities.pdf
- NCDHHS released, "What to Expect: Response to New COVID-19 Cases or Outbreaks in Long Term Care Settings" on September 4, 2020. The resource captures relevant actions a nursing home should take when encountering new COVID infections
https://files.nc.gov/covid/documents/guidance/healthcare/What_To_Expect_Response_to_COVID19_Cases_Long_Term_Care.pdf
- On October 27, 2020, NCDHHS provided an update to the COVID-19 guidance for North Carolina clinicians and laboratories which includes:
  - Updated information and guidance on social gatherings
  - Updated information on who should be tested for COVID-19
  - Updated information on assessment of patients with acute respiratory illness symptoms when SARSCoV-2 and influenza viruses are both circulating
https://files.nc.gov/covid/documents/guidance/healthcare/COVID-19-Provider-Guidance-Final.pdf

North Dakota (ND)
Catholic Health Initiatives (CHI) St. Alexius Health - Garrison, ND
- Facility places contact time for cleaning and disinfecting products in large numbers on side of each bottle to keep that time more present in the mind of those using the products

Great Plains Quality Innovation Network (QIN)
- With so many meetings and trainings scheduled every day, it is a challenge for organizations to attend them all. Great Plains Quality Innovation Network (QIN) staff have been sharing their meeting notes from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) National COVID-19 Nursing Home Weekly Meeting via email to nursing home colleagues in North Dakota and South Dakota. Nursing home colleagues have been very appreciative of this action

North Dakota Health Information Exchange (HIE)
- Works with Department of Health to identify addresses for patients being tested to track disease spread where they live rather than where they sought health care; when there are positives, they can look at patient history to project what the disease manifestation might be
- Creates notifications to the state epidemiologist for positive tests to start contact tracing and to track hospital admissions and discharges (in development)
- Onboards providers to have the electronic medical record (EMR) connect to the state lab system
- Works with EMR vendors to add occupation and employer to the feed sent to the HIE to assist with contact tracing

North Dakota Office of the Governor Doug Burgum, North Dakota Department of Health, ProudCrowd
- The Care19 app was developed in North Dakota and stores the location of any place a person visits for 10 minutes or more. If an individual tests positive for COVID-19, it assists with contact tracing

https://ndresponse.gov/covid-19-resources/care19

Valley Senior Living on Columbia, Grand Forks
- Valley Senior Living implemented a strike team and procedure for communicating a COVID-19 positive resident. The procedure outlines when the notification occurs and by whom, who to contact immediately (including phone numbers), and the use of walkie talkies to notify staff internally. The document outlines when to call huddles, personal protective equipment (PPE) utilization, hand hygiene, and communication for the resident families. The procedure then outlines the communication to the COVID-19 Care Team, Contact Tracing Team, Social Services notification to families, Operations to perform Zoom huddles with IDT and COVID-19 Command Team for briefing, as well as communication for Environmental Services

Ohio (OH)
Ohio Department of Health
- COVID-19 education/resources are made available through a website. Selected topics include basic care guidelines, infection control/resident care posters, basic infection control guidelines, nursing home infection control preventionist training, and links to resources from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) https://aging.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/aging/care-and-living/coronavirus-response#1566596-those-serving-older-ohioans

Ohio Hospital Association (OHA)
- OHA provides COVID-19 education and resources on selected topics, including basic care and infection control guidelines, infection control/resident care posters, nursing home Infection control preventionist training, and links to resources from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) https://aging.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/aging/care-and-living

Office of the Governor Mike DeWine
- The Governor, Lieutenant Governor, agency directors, and other state leaders provide updates on COVID-19 in Ohio during near-daily press conferences
- In March, Ohio launched a COVID-19 Hotline to address questions from Ohio citizens, providers, and others in the medical community

State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy
- The Ohio Board of Pharmacy temporarily expanded multi-dose packaged prescriptions from a maximum 31-day fill to a 60-day fill, which will decrease pharmacy deliveries to nursing homes. This will reduce COVID-19 exposure from outside visitors and will also ensure that nursing home residents have sufficient medications during the pandemic https://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/Documents/Pubs/Special/COVID19Resources/Temporary%20Expansion%20of%20the%20Maximum%20Days%20Supply%20for%20Multidose%20Packaging.pdf

Oklahoma (OK)
Oklahoma State Department of Health
- A COVID-19 website was created for additional notifications and resources, including 77 swab-pods set-up around the state

https://coronavirus.health.ok.gov

Oregon (OR)
Oregon Office of Oversight and Quality
- The Oregon Office of Oversight and Quality (the state survey agency) wrote a letter to health care providers to express appreciation and share results of its technical assistance review. The survey agency also partnered with the health care authority to provide supportive, non-punitive messaging to providers
https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/DISEASESCONDITIONS/DISEASESAZ/Pages/COVID-19.aspx

The State of Oregon
- Developed a media campaign to support health care workers under the tag: #ORHealthcareHeroes

Pennsylvania (PA)
Pennsylvania Department of Aging, Office of State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program
- Family and friends who are unable to see loved ones living in long term care facilities because of the COVID-19 emergency may struggle with changes in protocol, rights, and policies. The Pennsylvania Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program is available to help with a new statewide resource called Virtual Family Council. The program offers weekly online meetings with a local ombudsman and a team of 10 local experts. Anyone can participate and ask questions, share concerns, or just listen to learn and gather information. The meetings will not only provide an opportunity for dialogue and networking, but updates to resources and policies will be provided as well. The meetings will not address specific issues regarding a resident or a facility
https://www.aging.pa.gov/organization/advocacy-and-protection/Pages/Ombudsman.aspx

PHCA-Pennsylvania Health Care Association
- Developed a recommended long term care facilities preparedness assessment for COVID-19 in checklist format for communication
https://www.phca.org/covid19

South Carolina (SC)
PruittHealth
- PruittHealth set up an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) that is active 24 hours a day, seven days week. The EOC is available to answer questions or to schedule a video chat with loved ones in any PruittHealth center
http://www.pruitthealth.com

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC)
- Developed Closed Window Visit Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for nursing homes and assisted living facilities
https://www.scdhec.gov/sites/default/files/media/document/NH-CRCF-Closed-Window-Visit-FAQs.pdf

- On November 19, 2020, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) issued guidelines for residents leaving long term care facilities for holidays. DHEC strongly recommends that long term care facilities establish a policy addressing leave of absence for residents during the holidays
https://scdhec.gov/sites/default/files/media/document/COVID19-Holiday-Resident-Memo.pdf

South Dakota (SD)
Great Plains Quality Innovation Network (QIN)
- With so many meetings and trainings scheduled every day, it is a challenge for organizations to attend them all. Great Plains QIN staff have been sharing their meeting notes from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) National COVID-19 Nursing Home Weekly Meeting via email to nursing home colleagues in North Dakota and South Dakota. Nursing home colleagues have been very appreciative of this action

South Dakota Department of Health
- The Care19 app (developed in North Dakota) helps users log and categorize locations they had visited for at least 10 minutes, assists in contact tracing, and is a tool to stay informed on potential exposure
https://covid.sd.gov/care19app.aspx

Tieszan Memorial Home
- Tieszan Memorial Home used its social media page to inform community and resident's families about COVID 19 mass testing. The intent was for families and residents' representatives to have an opportunity to read the information prior to the personal call to obtain consent for the testing. This provided time for representatives to gather any questions they might have, ultimately contributing to a quicker process in obtaining consents

Tennessee (TN)
Tennessee Department of Health
- The Weekly Long Term Facility COVID-19 Update Call is held every Wednesday at 11:00 CT/Noon ET. It includes updates on outbreak numbers, reporting-testing updates, available resources, and a Q&A section
https://tngov.webex.com/webappng/sites/tngov/meeting/download/93a8c91dda8e4cd38ddeb3eebc61618f?siteurl=tngov&MTID=m7ff6bbba2d9c9a0e27657ec4cde4f009

Texas (TX)
Texas Health and Human Services Commission
- On August 26 and September 9, 2020, Senator Judith Zaffirini hosted two public Facebook Live discussions about long term care. The Texas Health and Human Services Commission compiled the questions from these discussions, provided responses and updated the information based on recently released visitation rules
https://hhs.texas.gov/about-hhs/communications-events/news/2020/09/qa-previous-ltc-webinars-hosted-senator-zaffirini
- The Texas Health and Human Services Commission sends communications to its regulated nursing homes through surveyor staff. State and regional levels speak with the nursing facilities in their regions daily
- The Texas Health and Human Services Commission Regulatory Services hosts biweekly calls with

long term care provider associations to communicate policy changes and answer questions
- The agency has also produced over 100 guidance communications to providers, including letters, webinars, alerts, emergency rules, and temporary suspensions of regulatory requirements to give providers flexibility in responding to COVID-19
- On October 19, 2020, the Texas Health and Human Services Commission released Provider Letter (PL) 20-44 (replaces PL 20-38) titled, "COVID-19 Response - Expansion of Reopening Visitation." The letter describes expanded emergency rules to allow for essential caregiver visits, salon services visits, and limited indoor and outdoor visitation in nursing facilities. It also includes a new attestation form specifically designed for nursing facilities
https://apps.hhs.texas.gov/providers/communications/2020/letters/PL2020-44.pdf
- Updated on October 23, 2020, Texas Health and Human Services Commission Long-term Care Regulation issued Frequently Asked Questions regarding the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services COVID-19 testing requirements
https://hhs.texas.gov/sites/default/files/documents/services/health/coronavirus-covid-19/nf-cms-mandated-covid-testing-faqs.pdf

Vermont (VT)
Vermont Department of Health
- The Department is proactively contacting all long term care facilities, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and senior housing facilities to review strategies to prevent COVID-19 infection and to develop plans to respond immediately if an infection is identified
- If a case of COVID-19 is associated with a long term care facility, an epidemiology team is quickly activated. The team contacts the facility to provide recommendations and infection control support and begins contact tracing to determine the source of the infection and how it may be spreading
- The team contacts the facility to provide recommendations and infection control support and begins contact tracing to determine the source of the infection and how it may be spreading
https://www.healthvermont.gov/response/coronavirus-covid-19/long-term-care-and-group-living-settings

Virginia (VA)
Virginia Department of Health (VDH)

- Virginia's official COVID-19 exposure notification app, COVIDWISE, launched on August 5, 2020. Virginia is the first state to deploy an exposure notification app in the United States using the Apple/Google Bluetooth Low Energy framework which affords greater privacy and security to the user. The VDH and the Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association (VHHA) are committed to transparency related to privacy and acknowledge that no personally identifiable information or location data is ever collected, stored, or tracked through COVIDWISE. Use of the app is voluntary and can be deleted by the user at any time
https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/covidwise

West Virginia (WV)
Stonerise Healthcare

- Stonerise Healthcare has created a comprehensive web page with the latest news on COVID-19 at its facilities, including location status, media resources, how you can help, and family resources. The page also shares its safety promise, along with visitor guidelines link
https://stonerisehealthcare.com/coronavirus-updates

Alabama (AL)
Office of the Lieutenant Governor Will Ainsworth, Business Council of Alabama, Chamber of Commerce Association of Alabama, AlabamaWorks!, Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama, Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce, Southeast AlabamaWorks!, West AlabamaWorks!
- Alabama has created an online personal protective equipment (PPE), employment, and material resource guide for providers to find available supplies, disinfectants, PPE, employer/employee guidance, and more external pertinent links
https://tuscaloosachamber.com/business-toolkit

Arizona (AZ)
Pioneer Health Group
- To increase the supply of personal protective equipment (PPE) at the nursing home level, visit hardware stores, which have large supplies of PPE (coveralls to supplement gowns, eye protection, face shields, shoe covers, masks, and gloves)

Arkansas (AR)
Walmart Foundation
- On March 21, 2020, the Walmart Foundation announced a $5 million grant to the COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund, a program set up to support the World Health Organization (WHO). In part, the fund will enable WHO to send essential supplies, such as personal protective equipment (PPE) to front line health workers

California (CA)
California Association of Health Facilities (CAHF)
- CAHF developed the "Just-In-Time Respiratory Protection Program" to assist nursing homes in responding to events or situations, such as COVID-19, that will require them to implement a program for the respiratory protection of their employees. The nine-page guide contains a step-by-step process to get nursing homes prepared to set up and implement a plan to protect their employees, including a Fit-Test video to help prepare staff to use personal protective equipment (PPE)
https://www.cahf.org/Portals/29/DisasterPreparedness/pandemic/JustInTimeRespProtProgram.pdf

Colorado (CO)
Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF)
- Prioritized facilities for personal protective equipment and testing distribution
https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/hcpf/COVID

Connecticut (CT)
Battelle Critical Care Decontamination System (CCDS)™
- Performed decontamination of the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) to address personal protective equipment (PPE) shortage (cleans up to 80,000 units/day)
- Offered free to health care personnel
- Provided in eight locations
https://www.battelle.org/inb/battelle-ccds-for-covid19-satellite-locations

Delaware (DE)
The Delaware Collaboration with Community Volunteers Ombudsman Office Collaboration
- Volunteers called "Help for Healthcare Delaware" made masks for all non-clinical staff, generating 20,000 masks for all facilities

Florida (FL)
Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM)
- The Division made another major push for personal protective equipment (PPE) to support health care workers in long term care facilities. This includes 4 million masks, 200,000 face shields, and 500,000 gloves
https://floridadisaster.org/covid19

Orlando Health System
- Orlando Health System implemented "COVID Safety Officers (CSOs)" in all its facilities. This health system includes acute care, two long term care facilities and physician practices. Every shift, a designated staff person is the CSO tasked to observe employees donning and doffing personal protective equipment (PPE), performing appropriate hand hygiene, and assuring that all other infection control and prevention policies and procedures are being followed. This has provided a level of reassurance to the long term care facilities in the greater Orlando area when accepting transfers from acute care from this health system

Georgia (GA)
Georgia Health Care Association (GHCA)
- The GHCA emergency preparedness leader has been in constant contact with the Georgia Emergency Preparedness Command Center and stands ready to assist with all facets of needs from personal protective equipment (PPE) to all other equipment needed
https://www.ghca.info

Idaho (ID)
Idaho Health Care Association, Idaho Department of Health (IDOH)
- IDOH has taken the lead in coordination between Idaho nursing homes and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for distribution of personal protective equipment (PPE) supplies

Illinois (IL)
Health Care Council of Illinois (HCCI)
- Developed COVID-19 Resource page, updated daily with information regarding state and federal regulations, infection control, personal protective equipment (PPE), and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) information
http://www.hccil.org/covid-19

Indiana (IN)
Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH)
- An ISDH waiver issued guidance for creating COVID-19 long term care facilities:
  - Waiving facility staffing requirements
  - Enhancing reimbursement rates for COVID-19 facilities by 50 percent

- o Providing liability protection
- o Giving data support to help hospitals identify post-acute COVID-19 facilities for transfer
- o Providing infection control teams to train facilities on COVID-19 testing
- o Provisions all necessary personal protective equipment (PPE) as a "priority" facility, similar to hospitals
  https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN_COVID-19%20State%20Requirements%20and%20Guidance%20for%20COVID%20dedicated%20faciliti....pdf

Iowa (IA)
Iowa Department of Public Health
- Provides support through emergency response team available (for example, personal protective equipment [PPE] supply)
  https://idph.iowa.gov/Emerging-Health-Issues/Novel-Coronavirus/Long-Term-Care

Kansas (KS)
Kansas Health Care Association (KHCA)
- The KHCA created the Kansas Health Care Facility Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Request Process Algorithm to outline the PPE request process for Kansas facilities
  https://files.constantcontact.com/64f0b60b701/922ff4ca-9d2f-437e-9f2a-47f3450d0b4d.pdf

Louisiana (LA)
Louisiana Department of Health (LDH)
- Assembled the LDH Nursing Home Facility Toolkit for nursing home support. This toolkit provides state and best practice guidance for personal protective equipment (PPE), information about an option for safely sanitizing N95 masks for re-use, staffing resources, and testing recommendations, along with a variety of pertinent contact numbers
  http://ldh.la.gov/assets/medicaid/hss/docs/Coronavirus_2019/LDH_NH_Facility_Toolkit.pdf
- Created a PPE State Supply Hotline at 225-325-5900 so nursing homes can be informed as supplies become available. This phone line is available seven days a week from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Central Time
  http://ldh.la.gov/index.cfm/page/3884

Maine (ME)
Maine Health Care Association
- Statewide Think Tank Friday meeting
  - o Small group of corporate leaders in partnership with the Maine Health Care Association collaborated on sharing "vetted" vendors as they looked to procure PPE for their facilities
    https://www.mehca.org/files/QualityRegs/MHCA_PPE%20SUPPLIERS_051520.pdf

Minnesota (MN)
Minnesota Department of Health, Regional Health Care Preparedness Coordinators
- Nursing homes communicate personal protective equipment (PPE) shortages or supply chain issues to Minnesota Department of Health Regional Health Care Preparedness Coordinators (RHPC)

Mississippi (MS)
Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) Epidemiology Department
- Partner with MSDH Licensure and Certification with frequent contact
- Provide consultation to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in nursing homes
- Assist with personal protective equipment (PPE) attainment
- Provide daily follow-up to nursing homes that have COVID-19 cases
- Partner with Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA)
- Nursing homes are to request PPE from their county Emergency Management Agency (EMA) contact
  https://www.msema.org/county-ema

Missouri (MO)
Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services
- The Department has developed the Missouri COVID-19 Supply Solution Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Marketplace to engage medical equipment manufacturers and distributors to open new supply chains for PPE and other critical medical supplies
  https://health.mo.gov/living/healthcondiseases/communicable/novel-coronavirus/ppe.php

State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA)
- Nursing homes experiencing a shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE) can contact SEMA to obtain immediate short term PPE supplies

Nevada (NV)
Nevada COVID-19 Task Force
- The Nevada COVID task force has set up a manufacturing and retooling program for manufacturing companies to learn how they can help provide PPE in Nevada. The interested business completes an online survey which helps to determine if the business with potential competencies and capacity to contribute PPE
  https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/COVIDPPEM

New Jersey (NJ)
Office of the Governor Phil Murphy
- The state of New Jersey has assembled a Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Wholesale Supplier Registry Public Listing. The listing provides information about vendors and products for the purpose of assisting private businesses and organizations in New Jersey access to potential suppliers for PPE and other COVID-19 related goods and services
  https://forms.business.nj.gov/ppevendor/list

New Mexico (NM)
State of New Mexico
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) reporting portal established to monitor PPE levels statewide pursuant to Executive Order
- Nursing homes are to request PPE from their county Emergency Manager; working in conjunction with the Department of Homeland Security, critical PPE is delivered to the point of request

Ohio (OH)
Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities
- A Pre-Surge Planning Toolkit for Providers of Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS) includes concept diagrams and tools related to COVID-19; provides resources to support evaluation and re-evaluation of needs and capacity to address future quarantines of people who have been exposed; offers guidelines for isolation of people who are tested or presumed positive; and assists with planning for critical shortages of personal protective equipment (PPE) https://dodd.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/dodd/providers/all-provider-resources/resource-ltss-pre-surge-planning-toolkit
- Resource provides guidance on masks or face coverings in the workplace and COVID-19 frequently asked questions https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/resources/general-resources/cloth-masks-or-face-coverings-in-the-workplace

State Medical Board of Ohio, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Shared CDC website including information on eye protection, isolation gowns, gloves, face masks, N95 respirators, powered air purifying respirators, elastomeric respirators, and ventilators https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/index.html

Oklahoma (OK)
Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH)
- The OSDH COVID-19 website was created for additional notifications and resources, including a personal protective equipment (PPE) survey and the ability to compile and submit PPE burn rate data

Oklahoma State Ombudsman
- Coordinates and delivers personal protective equipment (PPE) to long term care facilities http://www.okdhs.org/services/aging/Pages/ombudsman.aspx

Pennsylvania (PA)
Office of the Governor Tom Wolf
- On May 6, 2020, Governor Wolf announced a program to provide free N95 respirator decontamination for long term care providers experiencing a shortage of respirators due to limited availability of personal protective equipment
- The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) is collaborating with Battelle Memorial Institute to deploy a decontamination unit in southeast Pennsylvania that has the capacity to sterilize up to 80,000 N95 respirators per day
- An eligible organization that wishes to use the system for N95 decontamination must register and enter into a use agreement with Battelle, at which time they will receive additional guidance regarding the types of N95s that are allowed and instructions for shipping and delivery

Pennsylvania Health Care Association (PHCA)
- PHCA developed a recommended long term care facilities preparedness assessment for COVID-19 in checklist format to track availability of personal protective equipment (PPE) and other supplies

https://www.phca.org/covid19

South Carolina (SC)
South Carolina COVID-19 Emergency Supply Collaborative
- The state established a collaborative between federal, state, and local South Carolina governments and organizations that connects South Carolina health care providers with sources for clinical care equipment, clothing and protection, disinfectants, eyewear and masks, gloves, and hazardous waste handling
  https://sccovid19.org/#criticalneeds

South Dakota (SD)
Sanford Health
- Provided instructions on how to sew a face mask, how to make a no-sew face mask, and how to wear a face mask. Volunteers were asked to sew masks for health care personnel
  https://news.sanfordhealth.org/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/how-to-make-face-masks

Tennessee (TN)
Tennessee Health Care Association (THCA)
- Developed COVID-19 resources for consumers
- Created guidance for facilities facing personal protective equipment (PPE) shortage
- Developed a PPE request form
  https://www.thca.org/for-consumers/resource-center
- Posted a toolkit for facility visitor screening
  https://www.thca.org/files/2020/03/FHCA-COVID-19-Visitor-Screening-Toolkit.pdf

COVID-19 Staffing Project
- Volunteers created a website to help hospitals and nursing facilities of all sizes anticipate their staffing and personal protective equipment (PPE) needs for the COVID-19 surge
  https://www.covidstaffing.org
- Modules included:
  - COVID-19 Staffing Needs Calculator: Calculated staffing needs by clinical role as inpatient census increased
    https://www.covidstaffing.org/modules/staffing-needs
  - COVID Response Planner: Planned a phased staffing response to COVID-19, based on available beds, staff, and locations
    https://www.covidstaffing.org/modules/response-planner
  - PPE Needs Calculator: Calculated PPE needs as inpatient census increased
    https://www.covidstaffing.org/modules/daily-ppe-calculator
  - Staff Skills Surveys: Determined staff skills specific to COVID-19 patient care needs
    https://www.covidstaffing.org/modules/supply
  - Role Allocation Toolkits: Based on staff and trainee skills, assessed COVID-19 patient care roles where staff members could re-deploy
    https://www.covidstaffing.org/modules/supply

Hamilton County
- Task force meets weekly with nursing homes and assisted living facilities to help them obtain personal protective equipment (PPE) and testing for COVID-19 and antibodies. All Hamilton

County hospitals are part of the task force
http://www.hamiltontn.gov

Mid-South Emergency Planning Coalition
- Works with the Memphis Task Force for Skilled Nursing and Assisted Living to obtain personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Developed a request form for skilled nursing facilities to request PPE and posted drive-through testing locations
http://www.midsouthepc.org

The Middle Tennessee Regional Healthcare Quality Improvement Collaborative Communication Coalition
- The Middle Tennessee Regional Healthcare Quality Improvement Collaborative Communication Coalition, a coalition working with Alliant Health Services, formed a task force that meets every other Thursday with representation from multiple counties in the Nashville area. Nursing homes assisted living centers, the Mayor's office, and the Tennessee Department of Health are represented. They are working together to coordinate personal protective equipment, testing, and National Healthcare Safety Network needs, such as assistance needed for enrollment and/or reporting in the COVID-19 module. Providers in the area network to invite other providers. A Senior Quality Advisor at AHS, Julie Clark, julie.clark@allianthealth.org, is available to assist on connection with this coalition

Texas (TX)
Texas Department of Health and Human Services
- Emergency Rule Enhancements for nursing facilities include that each facility must have plans for obtaining and maintaining a two-week supply of personal protective equipment and resident recovery plans for continuing care when a resident recovers from COVID-19
https://hhs.texas.gov/about-hhs/communications-events/news/2020/08/hhsc-allow-limited-visitation-nursing-facilities-long-term-care-facilities

Washington (WA)
Washington State Entities
- Established the Washington State COVID-19 Health System Response Management Team, appointed by the Office of the Governor Jay Inslee, to coordinate and optimize health care resources
- Implemented a centralized statewide process to request emergency restocking of personal protective equipment (PPE) and volunteer health care staff to address staffing shortages
http://www.wsha.org/wp-content/uploads/WSHA-Presentation-Adm.-Raquel-Bono_May-4-2020.pdf

Wisconsin (WI)
Wisconsin Health Care Association
- Provides daily COVID-19 updates for members and business partners with a focus on acquiring personal protective equipment (PPE)
https://www.whcawical.org

10. PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE): ACTIONS TO IMPROVE UTILIZATION OF PPE

Alabama (AL)
State of Alabama, Office of Governor Kay Ivey
- Issued supplemental emergency proclamation amending the "Safer at Home Order" to include a statewide mask requirement. Individuals will be required to wear a mask or other facial covering when in public and in close contact with other people. This amended order extends until Sunday, November 8, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.
https://governor.alabama.gov/newsroom/2020/08/governor-ivey-issues-amended-safer-at-home-order-6

Arizona (AZ)
Arizona National Guard (AzNG)
- AzNG has obtained level II and level III reusable (fabric) gowns. AzNG representatives are calling nursing homes to determine need and create a priority list for distribution. In addition, AzNG has created mobile teams to provide training on how to use and maintain the gowns

Arkansas (AR)
Arkansas Health Care Association (AHCA), Arkansas Department of Health (ADH)
- AHCA had ADH's health care-associated infections preventionist and infectious disease physician present on findings from their COVID-19 visits and answer questions
- The virtual event was open to all nursing homes and assisted living facilities
- Arkansas Department of Human Services Office of Long Term Care were also present

California (CA)
California Department of Public Health All Facilities Letters (AFL)
- Provides resources for skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) on preparing for COVID-19 and a toolkit for management of exposures and recognized cases in SNFs
- The Assessment of California SNFs to Receive Patients with Confirmed COVID-19 provides guidance for SNFs planning to designate a specific wing/unit to care for residents with suspected or confirmed COVID-19
https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/CDPH%20Document%20Library/AFL-20-25-Attachment-05-SNF-Assessment-Checklist.pdf

Grancell Village of the Jewish Homes for the Aging, Los Angeles County
- In early May 2020, this facility implemented the use of universal face shields accompanied by face masks for all visitors and staff interacting within six feet of residents. Implementation resulted in no resident cases and no evidence of staff-to-staff transmission in the facility. Overall, 14 staff and one resident have tested positive for COVID-19 in this facility, with no deaths
- In August 2020, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health made the recommendation for health care workers to wear face shields to prevent the spread of COVID-19
- Face shields have proven to be an effective mitigation strategy and the facility highly recommends this strategy to other nursing homes

Delaware (DE)
Delaware Health Care Facilities Association (DHCFA)
- Gowns are in such short supply and are being made from old shirts and bedsheets
- Volunteers called "Help for Healthcare Delaware" made masks for all non-clinical staff, generating 20,000 masks for all facilities
- Organizations took out a credit line to bulk purchase personal protective equipment (PPE), which was distributed among the facilities
  https://www.dhcfa.org

Florida (FL)
Florida Health Care Association (FHCA)
- Conducted a personal protective equipment (PPE) train-the-trainer webinar on April 8, 2020

Georgia (GA)
Sadie G. Mays Health and Rehabilitation Center
- Instituted a "Buddy System" intervention empowering all levels of staff to monitor and correct for the appropriate use and wear of PPE. This has been well received by staff as a good intervention to assure their residents are receiving the best care
- Instituted the "Shift Champions" intervention to monitor and replenish PPE inventory. The facility is currently COVID-19 and attributes these interventions to that status

Hawaii (HI)
University of Hawaii, Hawaii State Rural Health Association
- Provided a COVID-19 Project ECHO education and training series, with weekly sessions for all long term care and assisted living facilities. The series topics included: donning/doffing personal protective equipment (PPE), repurposing PPE, COVID-19 testing procedures, resident isolation and staff quarantine, and telemedicine in long term care
  https://geriatrics.jabsom.hawaii.edu/ltss

Indiana (IN)
Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH)
- On October 19, 2020, ISDH posted updated infection control guidance for long term care requiring usage of N95 masks, single resident gowns, and eye protection (face shield or goggles) when providing direct care to residents who tested positive or under investigation for COVID-19
  https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN_COVID-19%20LTC%20SOP%20checklist%2010.19.20.pdf
- To align with updated Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines, ISDH is now recommending the use of eye protection as a standard safety measure to protect personnel providing essential direct care within six feet of the resident, especially when doing procedures that lead to sprays and splashes
  https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN_COVID-19%20eye%20protection%209.2.20.pdf
  o New language added July 15, 2020, specifies that protective eyewear (e.g., safety glasses, trauma glasses) with gaps between glasses and the face likely do not protect eyes from all splashes and sprays

Iowa (IA)
Meyer Pharmacy
- Meyer Pharmacy has a respiratory therapist on staff and is performing mask fit training for local nursing home staff
  https://meyerpharmacy.com/pharmacy/covid-19

Kansas (KS)
Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE)
- KDHE created an infographic designed to help explain when and what Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is necessary when interacting with a person who is suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19. These guidelines show the "Preferred PPE" but can be modified based on what PPE is available
  https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1174/PPE-Cheat-Sheet-PDF---10-29-20?bidId=

LeadingAge Kansas
- LeadingAge Kansas added a respiratory protection resource page providing guidance on N95 and KN95 utilization including OSHA requirements, fit, testing and decontamination
  https://lks.memberclicks.net/respiratory-protection-need-to-know

Louisiana (LA)
Heritage Manor South
- Heritage Manor South has developed a way for staff to engage and motivate staff while promoting the correct usage of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and hand hygiene practices. Each day, a random staff member is selected to be the "Lucky Duck." The Lucky Duck must educate/demonstrate proper PPE and hand hygiene skills to surrounding staff members. If performed correctly, staff are given immediate praise and applause by supervisors and co-workers

Patterson Health Care
- Patterson Health Care in Patterson, Louisiana utilized a resident to help spread reminders to adopt best practices. Patterson has a nursing home resident who was a radio announcer, and he recorded 2-4 minute messages that were played overhead a few times each day to remind staff to choose best practices, such as how to choose the correct personal protective equipment (PPE), wash their hands, and reminders to remain socially distanced

Maine (ME)
Maine Health Care Association
- Guidance was created by the Maine Health Care Association on optimizing personal protective equipment (PPE) during a crisis
  https://www.mehca.org/files/QualityRegs/MHCA-Optimizing-PPE-During-Crisis-Levels.pdf

Maryland (MD)
University of Maryland Medical System (UMMS)
- UMMS' *Conserve PPE!* Video video covers personal protective equipment (PPE) conservation, proper ways to re-use specific types of masks, and how to correctly remove PPE

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I6JqZyu9du4

Michigan (MI)
University of Michigan
- Personal cold plasma 'air curtain' design for COVID-19 protection moves forward. The next generation of protective masks—under development at the University of Michigan—could harness the power of nonthermal, or cold, plasma into a small headset that both blocks and neutralizes airborne pathogens
https://news.umich.edu/personal-cold-plasma-air-curtain-design-for-covid-19-protection-moves-forward

Minnesota (MN)
Minnesota Department of Health
- Developed Best Practices for Masks: Considerations for People with Disabilities and Special Health Needs
https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/guidemasks.pdf

Missouri (MO)
Missouri University Sinclair School of Nursing – Quality Improvement Program for Missouri (QIPMO)
- The St. Louis Post-Acute Care Long Term Care Roundtable created a visual guide resource for bag mask storage
https://nursinghomehelp.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/BAG-MASK-STORAGE.pdf
- QIPMO developed a Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Protocol that provides guidance for the use of PPE in multiple situations in the nursing facility (i.e., visitors, direct or non-direct staff, active COVID-19 units, laundry, dietary, during testing, etc.)
https://nursinghomehelp.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/PPE-Protocol-102720.pdf

New Jersey (NJ)
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Shared resource guide with COVID-19 recommendations, including clarification that cloth face coverings are not considered personal protective equipment (PPE) because their capability to protect health care personnel (HCP) is unknown
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/long-term-care.html

Sanford Health
- Provided instructions on how to sew a face mask, how to make a no-sew face mask, and how to wear a face mask. Volunteers were asked to sew masks for health care personnel
https://news.sanfordhealth.org/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/how-to-make-face-masks

New Mexico (NM)
New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH)
- Updated mask guidance for children and youth which can be relevant for nursing home visitors.
https://cv.nmhealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Mask-Guidance-for-Children-and-Youth_Final1.pdf

North Carolina (NC)
North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS)
- NCDHHS launched the "Whatever Your Reason" campaign to encourage every North Carolinian to wear a mask in the collective fight against COVID-19. An online resource page was created to amplify this message with links to multi-media content (social media, video PSAs, digital ads, flyers, radio ads) available in English and Spanish
https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/materials-resources/whatever-your-reason
- NCDHHS partnered with four Latin American sports figures to increase awareness of wearing a mask to slow the spread of COVID-19
https://www.ncdhhs.gov/news/press-releases/ncdhhs-partners-latin-american-sports-figures-increase-awareness-wearing-mask

North Dakota (ND)
Valley Senior Living on Columbia, Grand Forks
- There were not enough supply carts for all rooms in the COVID-19 transfer unit and the monitoring hall. A 3-drawer cart was placed outside of each room near the door. The leadership team and staff developed a process for use. If in use, the drawers face the hallway and supplies are stocked. When not in use, the drawers are turned toward the wall. After each use, the cart is emptied and disinfected prior to turning to face the wall

Ohio (OH)
Office of the Governor Mike DeWine
- Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and Lt. Governor Jon Husted were appreciative of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA's) approval of the Battelle Critical Care Decontamination System (CCDS)™, which is being used to perform decontamination of the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) to address personal protective equipment (PPE) shortage (cleans up to 80,000 units/day) in Columbus, Ohio
https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/resources/news-releases-news-you-can-use/Governor-DeWine-Lt-Governor-Husted-Thank-FDA-for-Approval-Use-Battelle-Technology

State Medical Board of Ohio, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Shared information on the process to safely put on (don) and take off (doff) personal protective equipment (PPE) recommended for health care personnel caring for patients with COVID-19
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/using-ppe.html

Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities
- Pre-Surge Planning Toolkit for Providers of Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS): Resource with strategies on assistance with planning for critical shortages of personal protective equipment (PPE)
https://dodd.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/dodd/providers/all-provider-resources/resource-ltss-pre-surge-planning-toolkit

Oklahoma (OK)
Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH)
- The OSDH COVID-19 website was created for additional notifications and resources, including information on county task forces to assist nursing homes with testing, delivery, and

identification of personal protective equipment (PPE) needs
- OSDH released a Long Term Care Facility Staff Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Usage Grid to help nursing homes select correct PPE for staff and residents
https://coronavirus.health.ok.gov/sites/g/files/gmc786/f/ltc_facility_staff_ppe_usage_grid.pdf

Texas (TX)
Texas Health and Human Services Commission Regulatory Services
- The Texas Health and Human Services Commission Regulatory Services and the Strike Force are trained to teach staff at facilities the "donning and doffing" of personal protective equipment (PPE)
- The Texas Health and Human Services Commission is also offering webinars on best-practices of PPE use in infection control

Utah (UT)
State of Utah
- Created an official YouTube account, Utah Coronavirus, for COVID-19 response and information. A new set of video resources are available, including the "Protect Yourself" video playlist that includes tips for self-isolation, proper mask wearing, hand hygiene and more
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLa8O8Iicbk0umwGmBF323D-Iv0m2TIbjC

Virginia (VA)
Virginia Department of Health (VDH)
- The Virginia Department of Health is hosting multiple sessions of an N95 Respiratory Fit Testing Train-the-Trainer Course. The purpose of the course is to ensure that each health district has two individuals qualified to provide respirator fit testing for their district. In addition, the attendee will be able to train others in the proper procedures for fit testing
https://www.train.org/virginia/course/1046592/live_event

Virginia Health Care Association – Virginia Center for Assisted Living (VHCA-VCAL)
- The Virginia Department of General Services developed an online listing of emergency vendors offering supplies, inclusive of PPE, and services during the COVID-19 pandemic
https://dgs.virginia.gov/procurement/resources/covid-19-emergency-vendor-list/

West Virginia (WV)
West Virginia Department of Health and Human Services, Bureau of Public Health
- COVID-19 website includes homeless service providers and home care resources, such as home care and self-isolation guidance for people with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 and guidance on cleaning when caring for ill person in the home
https://dhhr.wv.gov/COVID-19/Pages/default.aspx

California (CA)
The County of San Luis Obispo, in partnership with Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Dignity Health, and Tenet Healthcare
- Opened its Alternate Care Site located at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo's Recreation Center. This site will help relieve local hospitals and nursing homes by housing patients with needs between home care and hospitalization
  https://www.emergencyslo.org/en/alternate-care-site.aspx

Iowa (IA)
Iowa Long Term Care Ombudsman
- Provides individual nursing home support for advocacy of needs at resident level
- Supports residents and families with concerns
- Encourages nursing homes to reach out to the Quality Improvement Organization, the Department of Inspections and Appeals (DIA), and the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) for support
- Website houses multiple resources
  https://www.iowaaging.gov/educational-resources/covid-19-older-iowans

Maryland (MD)
Chesapeake Regional Information System for our Patients (CRISP) Health Information Exchange Daily Bed Reporting
- This new daily CRISP bed reporting survey provides key pieces of skilled nursing facility availability information
- The Post-Acute Capacity form has been relocated to the CRISP Unified Landing Page (ULP) at https://ulp.crisphealth.org
- If you do not have access to the CRISP Unified Landing Page, please contact the CRISP Customer Care Team and request access to "Post Acute Capacity." Call 1-877-952-7477 or email support@crisphealth.org

Michigan (MI)
Michigan Office of the Governor Gretchen Whitmer
- COVID-19 Regional Hubs are dedicated to treating COVID-19-affected individuals from congregate care settings who do not require hospital-level care. The Hubs will be designated by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and announced as they are established
- Facilities across the state are being considered for this model based on willingness to serve as a hub facility, capacity to contribute to local need for services, proximity to acute care facilities experiencing high COVID-19-related demand, ability to effectively quarantine COVID-19-affected residents, and performance history of the facility
- COVID-19 Regional Hubs will be required to complete daily enhanced reporting to the department
  https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98163_98173-526911,00.html

Mississippi (MS)
Mississippi State Department of Health, Mississippi Emergency Management Agency
- The COVID-19 System of Care helps arrange for COVID-19 convalescence for patients being discharged from a hospital before being readmitted to a nursing home
- For more information, contact David Hall, Bureau Chief for the Acute Care Systems – Mississippi State Department of Health at 601-933-2440
  https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/44,22004,397,881.html

Nebraska (NE)
Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
- Temporary housing for health care workers, emergency medical services, and law enforcement personnel is provided to mitigate the potential of COVID-19 exposure to their loved ones when they return home after shifts worked. The goal of this program is to reduce spread and exposure to families of health care workers and first responders while they continue to work their assigned shifts
  http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Nebraska-Accommodation-Project.aspx

Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), University of Nebraska, Nebraska National Guard
- Temporary lodging and accommodations are available to Nebraskans exposed to COVID-19 and in need of a quarantine/isolation location outside of their usual residence due to a high risk household member
  http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Pilot-Program-for-COVID-19-Housing-Accommodation-Expands.aspx

Nevada (NV)
Nursing Homes
- Larger, urban nursing homes are creating COVID-19 units at COVID-19-naïve facilities

New Jersey (NJ)
Housing and Community Development Network of New Jersey
- Received funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to house COVID-19-positive individuals and families who required isolation using hotels, motels and dormitories. The five-category criteria includes:
  - Homeless individuals and families who live in congregate shelters who are symptomatic or tested positive for COVID-19
  - Homeless individuals who require quarantine or isolation due to being symptomatic or having a positive test for COVID-19
  - Children and adults living in congregate living settings who have tested positive for COVID-19
  - First responders and health care workers who do not require hospitalization but nevertheless need to avoid direct contact with their families due to exposure to COVID-19
  - Other groups that may need assistance as the state continues to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, such as COVID-19 positive patients who do not require hospitalization in a traditional setting, but nevertheless require quarantine and isolation outside their residence to prevent the further spread of the virus
    https://www.hcdnnj.org/coronavirusresources#homeless

New Mexico (NM)
Nursing Homes
- Larger nursing home corporations have instituted COVID-19-specific facilities

New York (NY)
Coalition for the Homeless
- The Coalition has developed COVID-19 guidance material for shelters. The guidance material, all of which are available for viewing, download, and use, includes:
    - Best practices for shelters
    - Isolation procedures and guidance
    - Face mask guidance
    - Isolation discharge criteria
    - COVID-19 overview and testing form
    - Shelter provider COVID-19 FAQs document
      https://www.coalitionforthehomeless.org/covid-19

Pennsylvania (PA)
Pennsylvania Health Care Association
- Provided hotel rooms for staff needing distancing
  https://www.phca.org/covid19

Texas (TX)
Texas Department of State Health Services
- Contracts to staff and outfit alternate care sites are in place throughout the state, as well as to coordinate planning efforts with multiple jurisdictions that may have their own surge capacity plans. For instance, the City of Austin used models from the University of Texas to prepare to set up hospital-level care sites with select buildings
  https://www.austintexas.gov/news/surge-plan-developed-treat-covid-19-patients-if-hospitals-are-overwhelmed

West Virginia (WV)
West Virginia Department of Health and Human Services, Bureau of Public Health
- COVID-19 website includes homeless service providers and home care resources, such as home care and self-isolation guidance for people with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 and guidance on cleaning when caring for ill person in the home
  https://dhhr.wv.gov/COVID-19/Pages/default.aspx

12. TRANSPORTATION NEEDS

California (CA)
The State of California
- California partnered with United Airlines in April 2020 to provide free, round-trip flights for volunteer medical professionals from across California and the country who join the state's health care workforce

Georgia (GA)
Georgia Health Care Association (GHCA)
- Developed a modified infection control transfer form to help members communicate when admitting hospital transfers. This form can be used bi-directionally by hospitals and skilled nursing facilities
  https://www.ghca.info//Files/Final%20Infection%20Control%20Transfer%20Form%20-%20Fillable.pdf

Iowa (IA)
Iowa Long Term Care Ombudsman
- Provides individual nursing home support for advocacy of needs at resident level
- Supports residents and families with concerns
- Encourages nursing homes to reach out to the Quality Improvement Organization, the Department of Inspections and Appeals (DIA), and the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) for support
- Website houses multiple resources
  https://www.iowaaging.gov/educational-resources/covid-19-older-iowans

New Mexico (NM)
State of New Mexico
- Developed transportation capacity with state emergency management function to transport individuals requiring medical sheltering and placement at an alternative care site

New York (NY)
New York State Department of Health
- Interim Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfection of Public Transportation Settings for COVID-19 resource covers cleaning and disinfection guidelines to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in public transportation, including information on routine cleaning; high risk locations; cleaning and disinfection; and staff guidance (hand hygiene, personal protective equipment, and respiratory hygiene)
  https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/03/cleaning_guidance_public_transportation.pdf

West Virginia (WV)
West Virginia Department of Health and Human Services, Bureau of Public Health
- COVID-19 website includes information on medical transport guidelines
  https://dhhr.wv.gov/COVID-19/Pages/default.aspx

13. PATIENT TRANSFER

Arizona (AZ)
Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS)

- Newly developed, centralized 24/7 call line facilitates interfacility transfer of patients to and from hospitals and nursing homes. This free service is an algorithm based on protocols created by Arizona transfer centers, ADHS, and chief medical officers. In addition, the state has identified two large alternative sites in the event of large hospital surges. This includes St. Luke's Medical Center, which recently closed, and a mall department store
- This system will manage throughput and deter bottlenecks in the emergency department (ED) with four key components:
  - Expediting patient transfer to a higher level of care
  - Expediting patient transfer to a lower level of care
  - Providing a safety net for interfacility transport
  - Providing critical care and palliative care consultation
  - 1.877.SURGE.AZ (1.877.787.4329)
    https://www.azdhs.gov/preparedness/epidemiology-disease-control/infectious-disease-epidemiology/index.php - novel-coronavirus-surge-line
- An algorithm for nursing homes and hospitals on accepting admissions and readmissions from higher acuity facilities clarifies when patients need to be in isolation or quarantine due to COVID-19
  https://azdhs.gov/documents/preparedness/epidemiology-disease-control/infectious-diseases-services/coronavirus/guidance-accepting-admissiongs-readmissions-higher-acuity-facilities.pdf
- By Executive Order, Arizona nursing homes are required to report daily bed availability and status of COVID-19 patients. To facilitate this, a web-based application, the Post Acute Care Capacity Tracker (PACCT), was developed. Having a centralized reporting mechanism will ensure appropriate level of care and reduce redundant phone calls from various hospitals to nursing homes
  https://www.azdhs.gov/preparedness/epidemiology-disease-control/infectious-disease-epidemiology/index.php#novel-coronavirus-surge-line
- A statewide centralized call station, Arizona (AZ) Surge Line, was created through the Office of the Governor Doug Ducey to facilitate COVID-19 transfers. To match ongoing patient transfer needs with available Intensive Care Unit (ICU) and post-acute beds, a web-based application was developed to capture data such as centralized bed availability, vents, staffing, personal protective equipment (PPE), etc., from hospitals and nursing homes. This tracker provides data to AZ Surge Line which arranges COVID-19 transfers from hospitals to nursing homes and from remote rural areas, such as the Navajo County which has COVID-19 hot-spots, to ICUs in hospitals
  https://www.azdhs.gov/preparedness/epidemiology-disease-control/infectious-disease-epidemiology/index.php#novel-coronavirus-surge-line

Innovation Care Partners / HonorHealth

- Innovation Care Partners (ICP), a clinically integrated care delivery system within the HonorHealth health system, developed an innovative post-acute care collaborative strategy to proactively identify skilled nursing facility COVID-19 outbreaks and mitigate severity
- ICP provides daily, real-time reports that identify potential outbreaks and direct immediate

assistance, including assessment of testing, staff protection, personal protective equipment (PPE), and physician communication
- ICP actively surveys partners about PPE which has resulted in the delivery of 1,200 isolation gowns, 18,000 surgical masks, and 1,000 N95 masks
- HonorHealth connects partners through virtual webinars that review national and local data, guidelines, advanced care planning, and PPE
- ICP updates partners via text messages and developed a website that includes a post-acute care COVID-19 toolkit. These strategies help ICP and HonorHealth strengthen partnerships, hear emerging concerns, disseminate timely information, educate post-acute care providers, and improve quality outcomes

California (CA)
The County of Los Angeles
- The Department of Public Health provides guidance to skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) on clinical care related to COVID-19 under the direction of the dedicated Hospital Acquired Infection-Antimicrobial Resistance Committee (HAI-ARC) to include directives on interfacility transfer, discharge rules, preventing and managing COVID-19 in long term care facilities and return to facility rules
http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media

County of San Luis Obispo, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Dignity Health, Tenet Healthcare
- The County of San Luis Obispo, in partnership with Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Dignity Health, and Tenet Healthcare opened its Alternate Care Site located at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo's Recreation Center. This site will help relieve local hospitals and nursing homes by housing patients with needs between home care and hospitalization
https://www.emergencyslo.org/en/alternate-care-site.aspx

Delaware (DE)
Delaware Health Care Facilities Association (DHCFA)
- A discharge planning task force works with accountable care organizations (ACOs) for each county and eBright Health, the state ACO, and all hospitals. It coordinates transfers from hospital to nursing home or assisted living, or vice versa. This takes a lot of communication and has worked extremely well. They want to keep this in place after the crisis.
https://www.dhcfa.org

District of Columbia (DC)
District of Columbia Hospital Association
- The COVID-19 Patient Transfer Communication Tool for Hospitals and Skilled Nursing Facilities allows sending and receiving facilities to document a patient's medical status related to COVID-19. It is an algorithm which supports assessment of all hospitalized patients for COVID-19 before transfer to a post-acute facility
https://higherlogicdownload.s3.amazonaws.com/DCHA/751f0cb7-ab59-4ad3-8e48-c9a6ec516cea/UploadedImages/Documents/COVID-19_Patient_Transfer_Questionnaire_DCHA___DCHCA.pdf

Florida (FL)
Florida Agency for Health Care Administration
- Early in the epidemic, worked with Florida Health Care Association and Florida Hospital Association to provide guidance related to transfers between nursing homes and hospitals http://ahca.myflorida.com/COVID-19_Facilities.shtml - facility
- Implemented emergency rule mandating hospital testing prior to discharge to long-term care facility
- Directed nursing homes to transfer residents if the nursing home is unable to appropriately isolate and following Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance http://ahca.myflorida.com/COVID-19_Facilities.shtml#facility
- Facilitated regional collaboratives of hospitals and nursing homes to provide critical infection control education and support

Georgia (GA)
Georgia Health Care Association (GHCA)
- Developed a modified infection control transfer form to help members communicate when admitting hospital transfers. This form can be used bi-directionally by hospitals and skilled nursing facilities https://www.ghca.info//Files/Final%20Infection%20Control%20Transfer%20Form%20-%20Fillable.pdf

Illinois (IL)
Illinois Critical Access Hospital Network (ICAHN)
- Provides swing beds for COVID-19-positive patients upon discharge from the hospital https://www.c-span.org/video/?471210-3/washington-journal-pat-schou-discusses-rural-health-care-coronavirus-pandemic

Indiana (IN)
Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH)
- An ISDH waiver issued guidance for creating COVID-19 long term care facilities:
  - Waiving facility staffing requirements
  - Enhancing reimbursement rates for COVID-19 facilities by 50 percent
  - Providing liability protection
  - Giving data support to help hospitals identify post-acute COVID-19 facilities for transfer
  - Providing infection control teams to train facilities on COVID-19 testing
  - Provisioning all necessary personal protective equipment (PPE) equipment as a "priority" facility, similar to hospitals https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN_COVID-19 State Requirements and Guidance for COVID dedicated faciliti....pdf
- Working with local organizations, ISDH created documents and best-practice sheets to help facilities and hospital to better communicate around facility transfers
  - COVID-19: Hospital Hand-off to Nursing Home https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/Hosp%20Hand%20Off%20to%20NH%20Final.pdf
  - COVID-19 Nursing Home Accepting Transfer from Hospital https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/NH accepting transfer from Hosp Final.pdf

Indiana Department of Homeland Security
- Emergency Medical Services, through the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, coordinated with the 911 system and nursing homes to use 911 as the method of communication for a positive COVID-19 resident prior to transfer to the hospital so that emergency medical services (EMS) crews are prepared and 911 dispatch is aware that the unit will be out of service for two hours after transfer to decontaminate

Iowa (IA)
Unity Point Healthcare (UPH) Accountable Care Organization Response
- Unity Point Healthcare launched an initiative to ensure safe transfers of patients transitioning to a skilled nursing facility (SNF)
- UPH will test any patient for COVID-19 prior to transition to a SNF. UPH is identifying space within each of its hospitals where patients who remain positive for COVID-19 but no longer require acute care can remain until they are safe to transition to a SNF
  https://www.unitypoint.org/coronavirus.aspx

Kentucky (KY)
Kentucky Association of Health Care Facilities (KAHCF)
- KAHCF, in collaboration with long term care administrators, developed guidance on hospital transfer from hospitals to long term care facilities

Kentucky Hospital Association
- The Kentucky Hospital Association (KHA) developed a COVID-19 toolkit that is available on its website and includes guidance documents on closure and reopening of elective procedures, visitation, health care employee return to work, and discharge of hospital patients to long term care
  https://www.kyha.com/admin-resources

Maine (ME)
MaineHealth, Northern Light Healthcare
- Two large health systems collaborated with hospital, nursing home, and home health associations to create a protocol/recommendations for skilled nursing facility (SNF) transfers
  https://files.constantcontact.com/61812921601/bbba135e-b54a-4d96-8385-d3218b31397f.pdf

Michigan (MI)
University of Michigan
- Increasingly, many individuals transition from hospitals to nursing homes to complete their recovery from serious health events as post-acute care patients. The Preventing Resistance and Infection by Integrating Systems in Michigan (MI PRIISM) project aims to develop a robust, integrated infection prevention program leveraging the increasingly close relationship between hospitals and their preferred referral nursing homes
  https://priism.med.umich.edu/home

Nebraska (NE)
Nebraska Health Care Foundation, Nebraska Medical Center Partners in Preparedness Mentor Project
- Awarded grant to foster mentorship with hospitals and nursing homes to enhance navigation

through rapidly changing recommendations, connection with resources, provision of best practices, and encouragement
http://www.providermagazine.com/news/Pages/2020/JUNE%202020/New-Partnership-Helps-Nebraska-Pandemic-Response.aspx

New Jersey Long Term Care Ombudsman (LTCO)
- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) drafted a memorandum to State Survey Agency Directors. The CMS memorandum directed notification requirements for facilities when transferring residents to an acute care facility on an emergent basis. The resource speaks to the LTCO responding to requests for clarification about what information facilities should send to LTCO when a resident is subject to a transfer to an acute care facility on an emergency basis, the background of this issue, and direction on what information the LTCO will accept
https://ichoosehome.nj.gov/ooie/emergency.shtml

New Mexico (NM)
New Mexico Department of Health, Home Care Association and Medical Advisory Team
- Collaborated with New Mexico Home Care Association and Medical Advisory Team on the development of transfer guidance from hospital settings to skilled and intermediate long-term care settings

New York (NY)
New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH)
- Created an Advisory: Hospital Discharges and Admissions to Nursing Homes/ Expedited Receipt of Residents Returning from Hospitals to Nursing Homes
- Residents are deemed appropriate for return to a nursing home upon a determination by the hospital physician or designee that the resident is medically stable for return
- Hospital discharge planners must confirm to the nursing home, by telephone, that the resident is medically stable for discharge. Comprehensive discharge instructions must be provided by the hospital prior to the transport of a resident to the nursing home.
- No resident shall be denied re-admission or admission to the nursing home solely based on a confirmed or suspected diagnosis of COVID-19. Nursing homes are prohibited from requiring a hospitalized resident who is determined medically stable to be tested for COVID-19 prior to admission or readmission
https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/imm/contingency-surge-methods-alternate-care-sites.pdf

Nevada (NV)
Nevada Health Care Association, Hospital Association, and Rural Hospital Partners
- A COVID-19-specific transfer form has been developed and is being implemented across these memberships, representing a very large portion of the Nevada health care community

Ohio (OH)
End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Network
- To ensure care quality and patient safety, the ESRD Network established education to assist in care transitions

LeadingAge Ohio

- This resource includes Q&A discussion and guidance to health care providers related to protocols in place for patients returning from hospitalization; screening new admissions; and accommodating individuals and families requesting a tour of the facility in anticipation of admission
https://www.leadingageohio.org/aws/LAO/asset_manager/get_file/434627?ver=49

Ohio Department of Health
- The Health Department created a checklist that can be used by shelters and congregate sites to minimize exposure to COVID-19. Shelters and other congregate housing sites can use this checklist to ensure they are following COVID-19 precautions. The directions are clear and succinct
https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/checklists/english-checklists/special-populations-shared-living-facilities-covid-19-checklist
- Released a resource that speaks to emergency preparedness in long term care facilities and the resident transport component of the preparedness plan as it links to infectious disease (transfer agreements and outside sources of transportation)
https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/healthcare-providers-and-local-health-districts/for-healthcare-providers/Emergency-Preparedness-in-Long-Term-Care-Facilities
- Created a resource that discusses Ohio workplaces COVID-19 requirements for cloth masks or face coverings and addresses FAQs pertaining to the topic (i.e., proper way to wear, available face coverings, why to wear face coverings, and types of face coverings)
https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/resources/general-resources/cloth-masks-or-face-coverings-in-the-workplace

Ohio Funeral Directors Association
- The Ohio Funeral Directors Association prepared recommendations to facilitate the transfer of deceased patients from nursing homes, long term care, and hospitals into the care of the funeral director
https://www.ema.ohio.gov/Documents/covid19/Hospice_Guidance.pdf

OMDA - The Ohio Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine
- The Skilled Nursing Facility to Hospital and Hospital to Skilled Nursing Facility COVID- 19 Transfer Communication Tool documents an individual's medical status related to COVID-2019 to help facilitate communication between skilled nursing facilities and hospitals during patient transfers and admissions
http://ohioamda.org/aws/OMDA/pt/sp/resources

Pennsylvania (PA)
Pennsylvania Health Care Association (PHCA)
- Nursing home association representing most nursing homes in Pennsylvania allows nursing homes to transfer residents if unable to care for them
https://www.phca.org/covid19

Texas (TX)
Texas Health and Human Services Commission Regulatory Services
- A patient/resident transfer assessment guidance and process flow assists with transfers of patients from hospitals to long term care facilities

Washington (WA)
State of Washington
- The state of Washington has responded well to the pandemic, with many organizations working to support the implementation and spread of nursing home- related state action
- Larger facilities and corporations are establishing COVID-19-specific facilities to receive discharges from hospitals, with increased hazard pay for employees and dedicated resources
- The state of Washington, with support of the hospital and nursing home associations, developed a standardized statewide process for coordinating discharges from hospitals to nursing homes so as not to overwhelm any one facility

West Virginia (WV)
West Virginia Health Care Association and West Virginia Department of Health and Human Services (WVDHHS)
- In conjunction with WVDHHS Bureau for Public Health Division of Infectious Disease Epidemiology, developed guidelines for COVID-19 outbreaks in long term care facilities, which covers management of residents returning from hospitalization or new admissions; criteria to remove residents from isolation; and nursing facility transfers
https://dhhr.wv.gov/COVID-19/Pages/default.aspx

14. RESOURCES

Alabama (AL)
Alabama Nursing Home Association (ANHA)
- Released the ANHA Disaster Preparedness Toolkit
https://anha.org/anha-launches-new-disaster-preparedness-toolkit

Alabama Nursing Home Association (ANHA), Alabama Department of Health (ADPH), Alliant Health Solutions
- Host COVID-19 office hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays through August 27, 2020 for facilities to discuss and share COVID-19 best practices. These partners are also planning a monthly Health care acquired-infection (HAI) Huddle webinar on the last Friday of each month to provide guidance on some of the common themes brought forth during the office hour calls. Information related to these calls will be included in the ANHA newsletter

Alliant Quality QIN-QIO, Dr. Rodney Tucker, Director for the Center for Palliative and Supportive Care at the University of Alabama Birmingham
- Dr. Rodney Tucker, Director for the Center for Palliative and Supportive Care at the University of Alabama Birmingham, recorded a bite-sized learning with Alliant Quality regarding the tool "Meet My Loved One." The Tool is designed for family members to share small details about their loved one to help bedside care teams deliver person-centered, compassionate care during COVID-19 treatment
https://youtu.be/UKczhKqFhDs
https://www.alliantquality.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/AQ_PatientCenteredCareDuringPandemic_MeetMyLovedOne_12SOW-AHSQIN-QIO-TO1CC-20-252_508-2.pdf

Office of the Governor Kay Ivey
- An Alabama state based COVID-19 taskforce is maintaining a website which provides a wide variety of helpful COVID-19 information, including testing sites, news, and resources. The website is intended to also connect businesses, nonprofits, and people that need help with the right program partners and to connect program partners with people and resources to help those most in need
https://covid19.alabama.gov

Office of the Lieutenant Governor Will Ainsworth, Business Council of Alabama, Chamber of Commerce Association of Alabama, AlabamaWorks!, Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama, Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce, Southeast AlabamaWorks!, West AlabamaWorks!
- Alabama has created an online personal protective equipment (PPE), employment, and material resource guide for providers to find available supplies, disinfectants, PPE, employer/employee guidance, and more external pertinent links
https://tuscaloosachamber.com/business-toolkit

Alaska (AK)
Alzheimer's Resource of Alaska
- This organization provides care coordination services and education and connects residents to meaningful activities and community
https://www.alzalaska.org/programs-services

Arizona (AZ)
Arizona Department of Human Services (ADHS)
- ADHS developed the Arizona Surge Line (ASL) to serve as a statewide call center and one stop resource and coordination center for COVID-19 patient transfers for all facilities. The ASL will expedite the transfer of patients with presumed or confirmed COVID-19 to a higher level of care; expedite transfer of patients with presumed or confirmed COVID-19 to a lower level of care, including skilled nursing facilities; equalize and optimize patient numbers across hospital facilities; optimize clinician time spent doing patient care; coordinate air and ground transportation, and support clinicians managing COVID-19 and end of life care
https://www.azdhs.gov/preparedness/epidemiology-disease-control/infectious-disease-epidemiology/index.php#novel-coronavirus-surge-line

Arizona Health Care Association (AHCA)
- Held a free, statewide webinar covering COVID-19 and seasonal influenza. Topics covered by the state's epidemiologist included similarities and differences between flu and COVID-19, the importance of vaccinations for staff and residents, ways nursing homes can decrease health care system burden, and vaccine misconceptions
https://zoom.us/rec/play/MkPK1fooLTW2oGvYYQSlZt2r-w8sCGduBF9BWHslkmgj076rAn_XmGoMhZbk2Z3OJ_erLJmSVkriCt3x.SM9AhNmeki0JzYe9?startTime=1600885828000&_x_zm_rtaid=9ezLG-kPSkK5GWQyBdqz1A.1601992831580.d853d2aca04002d39fdfcf0e6a6375fb&_x_zm_rhtaid=890
- AHCA has expanded infection control support across Arizona through a new program called Disaster Ready (DR) EPIC (Emergency Preparedness Infection Control). The program is funded by a grant through the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) Hospital Preparedness Program. DR EPIC is an extension of the AHCA's ongoing Disaster Ready program, which has been in place since 2012. The program team includes expertise in nursing, infection prevention, and industrial hygiene. All Arizona skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) are eligible for technical assistance. SNFs with questions can email the DR EPIC Online Help Center at EPIC@azhca.org. They can also call the Helpline at 602-241-4644
https://vimeo.com/448284857/1194ddb244
- AHCA developed a program to implement emergency preparedness and incident command training for nursing homes, funded by a grant from the Arizona Department of Health Services
- AHCA created a COVID-19 web page with information relevant to nursing homes, which includes information on national, state, and local guidelines

California (CA)
California Department of Public Health

- The California Department of Public Health's Center for Health Care Quality (CHCQ) surveyors have increased frequency of onsite visits at skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) experiencing current outbreaks to support their infection control plans. For example, assistance is provided in areas such as containing and mitigating outbreaks, conducting contact tracing risk exposure assessments, and coordinating testing with local health departments. CHCQ strike teams also assist SNFs with cohorting, or separating residents who are COVID-19 positive, and transferring and receiving residents as needed. These teams include health facility evaluator nurses, infection control specialists, and staff from local health departments. CHCQ has deployed strike teams to over 400 SNFs since the pandemic began
https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/SNFsCOVID_19.aspx
- On October 5, 2020, the California Department of Public Health distributed All Facilities Letter (AFL) 20-78 to remind all skilled nursing facilities of their obligation to ensure that residents can exercise their right to vote safely in the November 3, 2020, election during the COVID-19 pandemic
https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/Pages/AFL-20-78.aspx

California Health Care Foundation
- Provides COVID-19 resources to support nursing home providers, patients, and families to have conversations about serious illness and end of life care
- Online resources cover topics such as support for health care providers, patients, and families; the importance of advance care planning and palliative care in the context of COVID-19; and support for health systems regarding critical care resources
https://www.chcf.org/publication/covid-19-resources-serious-illness-end-of-life-care

California Partnership to Improve Dementia Care
- Produced six COVID-19 recorded webinars, including:
  o Optimizing Dementia Care in the Era of COVID-19
  o Activities for Persons with Dementia During COVID-19
  o Tips for Reducing Wandering During COVID-19
  o Reducing Emotional Distress in Patients with Dementia During COVID-19
  o Supporting Family Members of Residents in Long Term Care
  o Coping During a Pandemic: Support for Long Term Care Staff
  o https://www.caltcm.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=577:covid-19-training-video-series--brought-to-you-by-the-california-partnership-to-improve-dementia-care&catid=22:news&Itemid=111

Coalition for Compassionate Care of California
- Offers a COVID-10 Conversations Toolbox for patients, families, and providers in nursing homes as they navigate end of life decision-making during these challenging times
- The toolbox includes decision aids, COVID-19-specific scripts, conversation tips, and other tools to help facilitate conversations about care
https://coalitionccc.org/covid-conversations-toolbox

County of Santa Clara Emergency Operations Center
- Organized local resources to meet projected needs for skilled nursing facilities
- Distributed a survey for residents to document skills and matched them with specific nursing home needs, such as janitorial services and social work

https://www.sccgov.org/sites/covid19/Pages/i-can-help.aspx

YMCA of Orange County
- Twenty-eight YMCAs in Orange County are offering childcare services from 6:45 AM to 6:00 PM so that nurses can go to work. A staff member is dedicated at each site to sterilize and disinfect everything that the children and staff come in contact with. Children are screened for symptoms each day and stay in the same group of 10 throughout the day https://abc7.com/ymca-free-childcare-oc-covid-coronavirus/6056867

Colorado (CO)
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE)
- CDPHE recently launched a newly designed data visualization for COVID-19, featuring interactive tools for customizing views. Outbreak data can now be viewed by county. Hospital charts now include data by age, sex, race and ethnicity, and post-hospital outcomes https://covid19.colorado.gov/data

Delaware (DE)
Delaware Health Care Facilities Association (DHCFA)
- Arranged a dance party for staff
- There was a DJ set up outside of the facility and staff came out to dance while residents watched from the windows https://www.dhcfa.org

District of Columbia (DC)
District of Columbia Hospital Association
- Journey Live gives you guided meditation to help reduce your stress and anxiety, increase focus and productivity and find balance. Access to the App is free for the remainder of the year https://mcusercontent.com/67e7a773996f97d87b3be7633/files/86437965-69b3-4452-9f16-47cae08871a6/DCHA_Journey_Meditation.pdf

Florida (FL)
Florida Health Care Association
- Shares COVID-19 information on its website https://www.fhca.org

Florida Health Care Coalitions
- Offers dedicated page on website for COVID-19 information, including information about symptoms, handwashing, social distancing, and Q&As https://floridahealthcovid19.gov

Florida Hospital Association
- Shares COVID-19 information on its website http://www.fha.org

Florida Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine (FMDA)
- Provides COVID-19 library of related resources on web page
  https://www.fmda.org/covid-19.php

Georgia (GA)
Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, Georgia Department of Public Health
- The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities and the Georgia Department of Public Health are offering webinars on self care tips and support for emotional wellbeing during the pandemic
  https://dbhdd.georgia.gov/bh-prevention/2x2-series

Georgia Department of Public Health (GA DPH)
- Georgia DPH has been a supportive agency for all facets of health care during this pandemic
- Its ability to provide on-site support and develop a process for video audits has been invaluable to those that are in "hot spots" of COVID-19 activity
- Collects data from health care facilities on the State Electronic Notifiable Disease Surveillance System (SENDSS) network
- Supports health care facilities with virtual and on-site visits
- Tests for COVID-19 samples at the GA DPH laboratory
  https://dph.georgia.gov

Hawaii (HI)
Center to Advance Palliative Care
- Created COVID-19 toolkit to assist with palliative care, hospice, and end of life decisions
  https://www.capc.org/toolkits/covid-19-response-resources

Hawaii Long Term Care (LTC) Workgroup, Hawaii Department of Health
- The following resources from the Hawaii LTC Workgroup, which are accessible through the Mountain-Pacific Quality Health website, offer education and awareness around providing care during the COVID-19 outbreak, in accordance with the Hawaii Department of Health (DOH) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines:
  - 5 Steps to Prepare You for Caring for a Person in a Foster or Care Home – PDF
  - 5 Steps When Caring for a Person with COVID-19 in the Home – PDF
  - 5 Steps to Practice Prevention of COVID-19 Every Day – PDF
  - Guidance for Other Care Givers and Case Managers – PDF
  - Guidance on What to Do if You Are A Caregiver Diagnosed with COVID-19 – PDF
    https://www.mpqhf.org/QIO/quality-improvement-tools-resources/nursing-home-quality-improvement-tools-resources

Kokua Mau Continuous Care
- Deployed a COVID-19-specific resource page
  https://kokuamau.org/covid-19-resources

Idaho (ID)
Panhandle Health District
- The Panhandle Health District has created an online dashboard for counties in the Idaho panhandle that provides localized COVID-19 information guidance for businesses and health care professionals
https://panhandlehealthdistrict.org/covid-19

Illinois (IL)
Chicago Department of Public Health
- Created a web page of resources to provide guidance for the prevention and control of COVID-19 in long term care facilities (LTCFs)
https://www.chicagohan.org/covid-19/LTCF

Consumer Voice
- Consumer Voice posted a fact sheet that summarizes the key points of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations for holiday visits in nursing homes
https://theconsumervoice.org/uploads/files/issues/Holiday_Visits_and_COVID-19_Fact_Sheet_final.pdf

Health Care Council of Illinois (HCCI)
- Developed COVID-19 Resource page, updated daily with information regarding state and federal regulations, infection control, personal protective equipment (PPE), and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) information
- Prepares weekly member newsletters and email blasts on COVID-19 related resources and events throughout the state
http://www.hccil.org/covid-19

Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH)
- IDPH monitors several indicators that measure the health burden of COVID-19 in each Illinois county and capture a county's ability to respond. These metrics are intended to be used for local- level awareness of each county's progress during Phase 4 and will help local leaders, businesses, local health departments, and the public make informed decisions and promote healthy behaviors
https://dph.illinois.gov/countymetrics?county=Adams
- IDPH had long term care facilities complete a COVID-19 infection control assessment
- Telligen has partnered with IDPH to conduct outreach to nursing homes that do not have any cases of COVID-19, in order to proactively support infection prevention practices
- The IDPH COVID-19 website includes long term care guidance, information on facility outbreaks, and links to the governor's daily briefings, as well as key indicators to identify early but significant increases of COVID-19 transmission, which can signify a resurgence for 11 newly described regions
https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19
https://dph.illinois.gov/regionmetrics?regionID=1

Illinois Health Care Association (IHCA)
- Offers resource on steps to prevent COVID-19 from entering facility
https://www.ihca.com/Files/Comm_Article Info&Updates/Preventing COVID-19 From Entering

Facilities.pdf

LeadingAge Illinois
- LeadingAge Illinois posted "Isolation and Precautions Quick Sheet," a resource with updated guidance from the CDC on the following:
    o Duration of isolation and precautions for adults with COVID-19
    o Discontinuation of transmission-based precautions and disposition of COVID-19 patients in health care settings
    o Return-to-work criteria for health care personnel with SARS-CoV-2 infection
      https://leadingageil.org/resources/2020/coronavirus/assets/Isolation_and_Precaution_Quick_Sheet.pdf

Office of the Governor J.B. Pritzker
- Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker issued a Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation in response to the ongoing COVID-19 situation to assist Illinois agencies in coordinating state and federal resources, including the Strategic National Stockpile of medicines and protective equipment, to support local governments in preparation for any action that may be necessary related to the potential impact of COVID-19 in the state of Illinois
  https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/gov/Documents/APPROVED%20-%20Coronavirus%20Disaster%20Proc%20WORD.pdf
- The Governor provides a coronavirus update briefing daily
- Drive through testing sites are available throughout the state; all health care workers and residents with symptoms are eligible for testing
  https://dph.illinois.gov/covid19/covid-19-testing-sites
- The State of Illinois updated their COVID-19 plan and website. The Restore Illinois Plan now has been divided up into 11 regions (there were four previously). This will provide a more focused approach to each area's COVID-19 response as the pandemic continues
  https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/news

Rush University Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program (GWEP)
- Collaborating and supporting other Rush facilities and Illinois trade associations by providing free COVID-19 and infection prevention-related learning collaboratives and learning sessions to all provider types
  http://catch-on.org

Indiana (IN)
Indiana National Nursing Home COVID-19 Action Network (INNHCAN) ECHO
- INNHCAN ECHO has announced the launch of up to 120 Project ECHO sites beginning the week of November 9, 2020
  https://www.ihca.org/resource/announcing-the-launch-of-indianas-nursing-home-covid-19-action-network-echo

Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH)
- ISDH created a position to oversee the state's COVID-19 long term care response. This position worked between both ISDH, which provides the regulatory oversight of the facilities, and the Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) Medicaid Agency and Division of Aging, which oversees the payment and care responses
- ISDH developed a COVID-19 toolkit for long term care facility staff with Respiratory Surveillance

Line List and Respiratory Surveillance Outbreak Summary. The toolkit is a comprehensive list of resources and guidance for long term care facilities
https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN_COVID-19%20IP%20Toolkit%20ISDH_7.9.2020.pdf

- ISDH created dedicated area on its page for all long term care guidance
  https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/2399.htm
- ISDH reports weekly aggregate long term care data on its web page dashboard
  https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/2393.htm
- On October 17, 2020, the ISDH Long Term Care Newsletter provided helpful information on the below topics:
  - The support of nursing home residents' Constitutional right to vote.
  - Life Safety Code pertaining to the use of heaters in outdoor visitation structures
  - Through Indiana Civil Monetary Penalty funds, ISDH and University of Indianapolis are providing a free virtual training on infection prevention and control for long term care professionals working in Indiana skilled nursing facilities. Trainings will be held virtually and are designed to serve as an introduction to infection control with long term care specific content and examples. The training will also cover practices related to specific infections like COVID-19, *C. diff* and urinary tract infections. This training is designed to meet the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' regulations for infection prevention specialists working in long term care nursing facilities
    https://www.in.gov/isdh/files/IDH%20Long%20Term%20Care%20Newsletter%20Issue%202020-64.pdf

Iowa (IA)
Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals (IDIA)
- IDIA fields individual nursing home questions specific to survey or regulation, created a website FAQ document for support on common questions, and provides 1135 waiver guidance. During surveys, the Department encourages nursing homes to reach out to the Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) or Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) for support
  https://dia.iowa.gov/about/novel-coronavirus-covid-19
- Resources are provided and posted for nursing homes to access the most current updates or locate assistance according to their needs
  https://dia.iowa.gov/about/novel-coronavirus-covid-19

Iowa Department of Public Health
- IDPH website houses multiple resources for COVID-19 guidance and long term care recorded webinars
- IDPH conducts support webinars with ample Q&A time
- IDHP manages hotline and individual nursing home assistance via email
- IDPH provides support through emergency response team available (for example, personal protective equipment [PPE] supply)
- IPDH creates guidance documents for state specific requirements and reporting support
  https://idph.iowa.gov/Emerging-Health-Issues/Novel-Coronavirus/Long-Term-Care
- For nursing homes newly identified or with a time span since the last COVID-19 case was reported, IDPH is calling nursing homes to complete a preparedness checklist with the facility
- *In combined effort with the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals (DIA), the IDPH is performing Tele-ICAR assessment to non-COVID facilities and minimal amount of COVID active cases. This is in response to urgent needs in prevention of an outbreak at the facility*

Iowa Health Care Association
- Provides individual technical assistance; group meeting support; a weekly conference call; regular member newsletters; survey, reporting, and regulatory guidance; and a website that houses multiple COVID-19 resources, including a toolkit, the Telligen Telehealth Guide, updates and other topics
https://www.iowahealthcare.org/member-resources/emergency-preparedness/infection-control-resources

Iowa Long Term Care Ombudsman
- Provides individual nursing home support for advocacy of needs at resident level
- Supports residents and families with concerns
- Encourages nursing homes to reach out to the Quality Improvement Organization (QIO), the Department of Inspections and Appeals (DIA), and the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) for support
- Website houses multiple resources
https://www.iowaaging.gov/educational-resources/covid-19-older-iowans

LeadingAge of Iowa
- Provides individual technical assistance; a weekly conference call; regular member newsletters; survey and regulatory guidance; and a website housing multiple COVID-19 topics
https://www.leadingageiowa.org/covid-19

Office of the Governor Kim Reynolds
- The governor's COVID-19 website includes information for long term care facilities that link to resources from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
https://coronavirus.iowa.gov

University of Iowa
- The National Nursing Home Social Work Network is a geriatric workforce enhancement program funded by grants from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to develop a health care workforce that maximizes patient safety and engagement and to improve health outcomes for older adults. Much of its work is focused on long term care
- The program offers a weekly online support group meeting and multiple online resources for advance care planning, ethical decisions, and how to prepare and support residents, staff, families, and themselves
https://clas.uiowa.edu/socialwork/nursing-home/national-nursing-home-social-work-network

Kansas (KS)
Topeka Center for Rehab
- Facility worked with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on the development of their surge plan, including an establishing a morgue plan. The morgue plan includes outside facilities that the nursing home would be able to use if needed and a separate area/room which has supplies such as body bags, toe tags and deodorizer

Kentucky (KY)
Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS)
- The Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services developed a long term care (LTC) portal for COVID-19 resources. The "e-storefront" was developed to help LTC providers more easily find CHFS resources online, including guidance memos, FAQs, forms and instructions and the Kentucky COVID-19 LTC county indicator
https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/os/oig/dhc/Pages/cvltc.aspx

Kentucky Department of Health, Kentucky Hospital Association
- The Kentucky Department of Health and Kentucky Hospital Association are hosting a weekly COVID-19 Infection Prevention Office Hour. Nursing homes and hospitals are invited to attend. While there is no formal presentation or structure, Office Hours provides a platform for attendees to ask questions and share best practices
    - Call in #: 1.866.754.7476
    - Passcode:7411903133#

Kentucky Hospital Association
- The Kentucky Hospital Association (KHA) developed a COVID-19 toolkit that is available on its website and includes guidance documents on closure and reopening of elective procedures, visitation, health care employee return to work, and discharge of hospital patients to long term care
https://www.kyha.com/admin-resources

Norton Health Care
- Developed a post-acute team and call line to assist skilled nursing facilities
- Expects the call line to be rolled out statewide (more guidance on the web page)
https://kahcfkcal.org

State of Kentucky
- The state of Kentucky is maintaining a website which contains information about COVID-19 testing center locations, rates of infection by state and county, a COVID-19 Hotline (800-722-5725), a link to a daily report of COVID-19 epidemiological data, and a link to the most current long term care update by the state
https://govstatus.egov.com/kycovid19

TEAM KENTUCKY (Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Kentucky Public Health)
- The state of Kentucky established the KYCOVID19 website with interactive maps (red counties are noted at critical for decision making and community planning) and daily reports, including test data
https://govstatus.egov.com/kycovid19

Maine (ME)
Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
- The Division of Licensing and Certification partnered with the state health department and the ombudsman program to pool resources to complete Infection Control Assessment and Response (ICAR) programs in all Maine nursing facilities within three days
https://www.maine.gov/tools/whatsnew/index.php?topic=DHS+Press+Releases&id=2410756&v

=article

Maine Health Care Association
- Encouraged children to write notes, upload a drawing, or send a short video to residents in nursing homes and assisted living facilities
https://www.mehca.org/e-notes4ltc

Maryland (MD)
Anne Arundel County Department of Aging and Disabilities
- MY STORY is a form developed to help families document personalized information about the needs and preferences of their loved one. The form provides important information to support high quality, person-centered care from health care professionals and caregivers
https://www.aacounty.org/services-and-programs/my-story

FutureCare Nursing Homes
- Established an employee phone line for staff to answer questions related to COVID-19
- The phone line is open between 9 AM – 5 PM daily
https://futurecare.com/covidanswerline
- Dr. William Mansbach developed five employee support videos on diet and hydration, breathing, information overload, physical exercise, and cognitive exercises
https://futurecare.com/employeesupport

Health Facilities Association of Maryland
- Maryland COVID-19 Crisis Support Program provides free, confidential mental health support to employees of Maryland's long term health care facilities impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak
https://www.hfam.org/covid-19

SavaSeniorCare Administrative Services
- Created a toolkit to support residents and staff in having meaningful engagement while practicing social distancing and precautions
- The goal is to ensure there is connection in the ways it matters most
https://www.savaseniorcare.com/sava-announcements

The Green House Project
- In partnership with Project ECHO® (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes), a video tele-mentoring platform that spreads knowledge through real-time sharing, learning, and access to subject matter experts, the COVID-19 Best Practices in Nursing Homes initiative will identify and share proven protocols and lessons learned that long term care professionals can use for preparedness, management, and treatment of COVID-19. All sessions are offered free of charge to all nursing home providers
https://www.thegreenhouseproject.org/events/covid-19-best-practices-ltc-initiative

Michigan (MI)
Henry Ford Health System (HFHS)
- Uses information technology with CarePort to help find appropriate beds for patients during peak crisis. Donated excess personal protective equipment (PPE) to skilled nursing facilities, home health care agencies, and community partners

- Work collaboratively with CarePort/Allscripts to help home dialysis facilities cohort patients. Certain organizations are contacted twice daily to notify them of patients being discharged and their COVID-19 status. This ensures that these organizations were able to isolate and protect all patients and staff
- Collaborate with a regional hub for an outpatient COVID-19 unit by providing staff support to prepare the new unit to accept COVID-19-postive patients that needed placement
https://www.henryford.com/coronavirus

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)
- Michigan's older adults can connect virtually with family and friends this holiday season
https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98158-545927--,00.html
- The Michigan Nursing Homes COVID-19 Preparedness Task Force presented its final recommendations on nursing home resident protection to the Governor
https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-73970_71692-538524--,00.html

University of Michigan College of Engineering, Precision Health, Michigan Medicine
- Developed the model which uses a machine-learning algorithm to crunch more than 200 health and demographic variables of individual COVID-19 patients. The model then outputs a numerical score, updated every four hours, that predicts the patient's likelihood of requiring intensive care unit-level care. Preliminary validation of the model has shown it to be effective in predicting the progression of the disease
https://ihpi.umich.edu/news/faster-covid-computer-model-predicts-diseases-next-move

University of Michigan-Dearborn Aging Well Lab
- The Aging Well Lab at the University of Michigan-Dearborn is conducting a research study, currently in progress, to capture how older adults' perceptions, behaviors, and experience shift as the COVID-19 pandemic develops
https://www.umdagingwelllab.com/research-studies

Minnesota (MN)
Beaumont
- Advance care planning in-service provides skilled nursing facilities and other health care settings tools and resources for initiating the advance care planning conversation during COVID-19
www.beaumont.org/patients-families/respecting-choices-at-beaumont-advance-care-planning

Minnesota Department of Health (MDH)
- The COVID-19 Infection Control Assessment and Response (ICAR) Action Plan developed by MDH prepares nursing homes for COVID-19 by addressing these topics: administrative, surveillance, education, hand hygiene, transmission-based precautions, personal protective equipment, cleaning, and transfers
- Posted a long term care toolkit, intended for use to plan for a potential COVID-19 case or during an outbreak at a facility. Nursing homes can download this toolkit to implement measures to prevent and control disease spread in their homes, and to collect data that will help track respiratory illness and COVID-19 in residents and staff
https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/hcp/ltctoolkit.pdf

Minnesota Association for Geriatrics Inspired Clinicians (MAGIC)
- Created Managing COVID-19: A Guide for Skilled Nursing Facilities and Assisted Living Settings developed by MAGIC Clinical Practice Alliance Committee (CPAC)
- MAGIC thoroughly reviewed publications from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), and AMDA The Society for Post-Acute and Long Term Care Medicine and developed a comprehensive guide to provide concise information for managing COVID-19
  https://www.minnesotageriatrics.org/covid-19.html

Mississippi (MS)
Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) – Epidemiology Department
- Partners with MSDH Licensure & Certification with frequent contact
- Provides consultation to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in nursing homes
- Assists with personal protective equipment attainment
- Nursing homes that have COVID-19 cases receive daily follow-up

Missouri (MO)
Missouri Department of Public Health
- Website provides a local, zip code-level map of positive cases, as well as charts/graphs of COVID-19 cases and deaths by age, sex, and race
- A map of testing locations also is provided, with a hotline number and resources for the public
  https://www.stlcorona.com

Nursing Home Help (Sinclair School of Nursing)
- See this website for a wide variety of current links helpful to nursing homes in Missouri.
  https://nursinghomehelp.org/educationcategory/coronavirus-covid-19

Montana (MT)
Montana Department of Public Health
- Emergency preparedness program assists providers and communities with COVID-19 resources, information, and supplies/personal protective equipment requests
  https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/PHEP

Montana Regional Healthcare Coalition (RHCC)
- The Montana Regional Healthcare Coalition announced a grant opportunity for health care providers/members in each region. The "Regional Healthcare Coalition COVID-19 Mini Grant" project period is from October 1, 2020 through December 22, 2020, with a cap of $3,500.00. Grant applications will be reviewed beginning in January 2020 and awards will be made in February or sooner. Grant applications are due no later than December 20, 2020, although there are no guarantees grant monies will still be available. The following are proposed initiatives and focus areas from the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR):
  - Infectious Disease Education/Training
  - Infectious Disease Exercise
  - Personal Protective Equipment (see grant applications for specific requirements)
  - Equipment (see grant application for specific requirements)
  https://phep.formstack.com/forms/rhcc_grant_application_copy

Nebraska (NE)
American Red Cross Innovative Blood resources (IBR)
- Facilitates plasma donation from people who have fully recovered from COVID-19 for at least two weeks
  https://www.innovativebloodresources.org
  https://www.ncbb.org
  https://www.redcrossblood.org/donate-blood/dlp/plasma-donations-from-recovered-covid-19-patients.html

Catholic Health Initiatives (CHI)
- Lists facilities involved in Mayo Clinic Protocol-COVID-19 convalescent plasma donation
  https://www.catholichealthinitiatives.org/en/patient-care/locations.html

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
- In association with the Nebraska Infection Control Assessment and Promotion Program (ICAP) team, hosts webinars with COVID-19 situation updates and essential information. There are 20 recorded sessions available as of November 12, 2020
  https://icap.nebraskamed.com/covid-19-webinars
- Expanded Medicaid to lower income adults (aged 19 to 64) who earn up to 138 percent of the federal poverty level. Nebraska Medicaid will begin accepting applications for HHA on August 1, 2020. Benefits will begin on October 1, 2020
  http://dhhs.ne.gov/Medicaid%20Provider%20Bulletins/Provider%20Bulletin%202020-26.pdf
- Opened a statewide COVID-19 information line to answer general questions and share the latest information and resources to help keep Nebraskans informed. The number is (402) 552-6645 or toll-free at (833) 998-2275; hours of operation are 8 AM to 8 PM Central Time, 7 days a week
  http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/DHHS-Friday-COVID-19-Update-071020.aspx

Nevada (NV)
Chamber of Commerce
- The Vegas Chamber launched the "Switch to Kindness" gift card program to support local businesses and first responders and help infuse cash into small businesses. The program has gained recent popularity in southern Nevada
  https://www.vegaschamber.com/switch-to-kindness-vegas-chamber-launches-gift-card-program-to-support-local-businesses-and-first-responder

Nevada Rural Hospital Partners
- The Nevada rural hospital partners that support all rural health care facilities, including nursing homes, developed a COVID-19 resource toolkit
  https://nrhp.org/coronavirus

New Hampshire (NH)
New Hampshire Department of Education
- Nursing homes have been offering a resource to staff created by the New Hampshire Department of Education called Healthy Habits for Well-Being, which provides self-care guidance to help relieve anxiety during the pandemic. It includes instructions to help identify the five signs that someone may need help
https://www.education.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt326/files/inline-documents/2020/healthyhabits.pdf

New Jersey (NJ)
LeadingAge
- Resident engagement during social isolation: Presentations and recommendations from members to keep residents engaged during social isolation
https://leadingage.org/resident-engagement-during-social-isolation?mkt_tok=eyJpIjoiT1RReVlXSTFZekl3TkdVeiIsInQiOiJGRUJKZEhBckJuQ2hnM2tBWDZCcDZBV2xuNWJyXC9mTE1XQ1c1R1pZVnFnem8yUW45NkNSWTBYMkVBUE5CZXBycDJmc2xiYXkt4Sm5zNlhaXC9RQzRHY09aelA1TWhGaXJkS1VubW5X
5XeXpW

Health Care Association of New Jersey
- Statewide organization providing updates on most current and authoritative information on COVID-19 relevant to facilities in New Jersey
https://www.hcanj.org/covid-19-information

New Jersey Department of Health
- The Tele-ICAR tool for long-term care and assisted living facilities was developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and is intended to help long term care (LTC) and assisted living facilities (ALF) respond effectively to COVID-19 by evaluating the status of their current response activities
https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/COVID_Tele_ICAR_Assess_Tool.pdf
- The Guidance for COVID-19 Diagnosed and/or Exposed Healthcare Personnel resource addresses the widespread transmission of COVID-19 in New Jersey, the likelihood of asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic transmission, and the feasibility and benefits of formal contact tracing in health care settings
https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/Guidance_for_COVID19_Diagnosed_andor_Exposed_HCP.pdf
- The Quick Reference: Discontinuation of Transmission-Based Precautions and Home Isolation for Persons Diagnosed with COVID-19 tool helps health care facilities, health care providers, and local public health officials determine when to discontinue isolation for persons with confirmed COVID-19
https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/COVID-QuickRef_Discont_Isolation_and_TBP.pdf
- Developed the retrospective assessment tool for health care personnel (HCP) potentially exposed to COVID-19. This tool can be used to assess HCP exposure risk prior to the patient being identified as having COVID-19
https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/Retrospective%20Assessment%20Tool%20for%20Healthcare%20Personnel%20Potentially%20Exposed%20to%20COVID-19.pdf

- This document can be used to assess the type of potential exposure health care personnel may have experienced while caring for the COVID-19 patient and assign risk level (high, medium, low, or no risk). It also provides guidance on the management of exposed health care personnel https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/Healthcare%20Personnel%20(HCP)%20Exposure%20to%20Confirmed%20COVID-19%20Case%20Risk%20Algorithm.pdf
- This tool can be used to monitor and assess the appropriate use of personal protective equipment (PPE) for health care personnel caring for the COVID-19 patient after they have been identified in the facility https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/NJDOH%20COVID-19%20Healthcare%20Personnel%20(HCP)%20Exposure%20Checklist.pdf
- Tool incorporates recommendations and reporting requirements to assist in the control of outbreak at facility https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/COVID_Outbreak_Management_Checklist.pdf
- Information for providers and families on Physicians Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST) and end of life conversations https://nj.gov/health/advancedirective/polst
- Tool can be used by a health care facility or local health department to track HCP under active monitoring https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/covid2019_healthcare.shtml#2

New Jersey Department of Health Infection Control Assessment Response Team (ICAR)
- New Jersey Department of Health ICAR team provides one-hour virtual consultations to nursing homes to support infection prevention and control (IPC) activities based on the nursing home's completed tele-ICAR assessment https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/COVID_Tele_ICAR_Assess_Tool.pdf

New Mexico (NM)
New Mexico Department of Health
- The New Mexico Department of Health has created two COVID-19 hotlines. New Mexico also uses the Health Alert Network for community health care updates on current response activities and guidelines for diagnosis, infection control, and notification procedures http://www.newmexico.gov/hotlines

State of New Mexico
- Issued on November 30, 2020, updated its website and COVID-19 resources for businesses and residents with new items and links for helpful support. As of November 30, 2020, the Office of the Governor enforced a new framework that enables counties to reopen after meeting key health metrics https://www.newmexico.gov/2020/11/30/state-announces-tiered-red-to-green-system-for-n-m-counties-in-next-phase-of-covid-19-response-3/
- Set up a COVID-19 website, including information about symptoms, handwashing, social distancing, and Q&As
- Informational hotlines established to educate and inform on fact vs. fiction
- Nursing homes have distributed iPads for residents to facilitate virtual communication and visits with families
- Infection preventionists from the local public health districts and state departments of health

are providing consultations to nursing homes

New York (NY)
Association for Aging in New York
- Launched "CV19 CheckUp," an online tool that provides a personalized COVID-19 risk report. After spending 5 to 10 minutes answering questions, users will immediately receive a custom report based on lifestyle and habits. The report includes the user's likelihood of contracting and spreading COVID-19, the potential severity of symptoms and steps for reducing risk https://newyork.cv19checkup.org/?fbclid=IwAR0n6Du7QZa8p36PmXs9lYKX8Yg0XHPFTVtcLkH5rUF2aIVWB7v9uFbqWvA

Long Term Care Community Coalition
- The Emergency Action Plan: Save Lives of Residents in New York Long Term Care Facilities resource highlights components of a recommended COVID-19 action plan based on existing policies, known issues and concerns (i.e., preventing COVID-19 from entering nursing homes, daily resident monitoring, sufficient staffing, infection prevention and control transparency, personal protective equipment availability, resident and staff testing) https://nursinghome411.org/covid-emergency-action-plan

Greater New York Health Care Facilities Association
- Current updates and resources relevant to facilities in the metropolitan New York area https://gnyhcfa.org/covid-19

New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH)
- New York City (NYC) COVID-19 Care Network: A volunteer network of support for essential workers, their families, and any uninsured New Yorkers
- Front line essential workers and their families have free access to support from a volunteer mental, emotional, or spiritual care professional https://nyccovidcare.org
- Health care workers can text NYFRONTLINE to 741-741 to access 24/7 emotional support services https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home

New York State Office of Mental Health
- Released a resource on managing anxiety in an anxiety-provoking situation, including guidance and tips for individuals receiving mental health services; parents, including parents of children with pre-existing anxiety disorders; caregivers of older adults; and mental health providers https://omh.ny.gov/omhweb/guidance/covid-19-managing-stress-anxiety.pdf
- Outlines health care decisions process for individuals who are intellectually disabled and Medical Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (MOLST) to comply with New York State public health law for end of life decisions for individuals with developmental or intellectual disorders
  - Links to resources and information to expedite the process for obtaining urgent approval for end of life decisions for individuals who are intellectually disabled
  - Instructions on how to get urgent access and training to utilize the electronic MOLST and access the MOLST electronic database https://molst.org/covid-19-guidance

New York University (NYU)
- On the Front Line – COVID-19 Initiatives outlines ways to manage different facets of life under the spread of the COVID-19 virus, ranging from how to combat racially driven bias and fake news to how to increase cooperation and better manage stress
https://www.nyu.edu/life/safety-health-wellness/coronavirus-information/nyu-responds-to-covid-19/on-the-frontline.html

Office of the Governor Andrew Cuomo, New York Department of Health
- Due to a statutory change which the legislature approved at the beginning of March, Governor Cuomo can change or suspend laws unilaterally, so long as doing so assists the state in its disaster response

Soho MD
- Soho MD psychiatrists offer virtual and text messaging support via telehealth. The company has begun using the Lief Smart Patch to monitor a patient's heart rate and breathing patterns to identify anxiety levels in real time. This information can be downloaded into the electronic health record (EHR)
https://mhealthintelligence.com/news/a-nyc-telemental-health-clinic-uses-mhealth-to-gain-new-insights-into-care

North Carolina (NC)
Division of Health and Human Services, Office of the Governor Roy Cooper
- The Governor's COVID-19 task force created a website specific to long term care facilities and a long term care facility toolkit
https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/public-health/covid19/long-term-care-facilities
https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/public-health/covid19/covid-19-guidance#long-term-care-facilities

Duke Health Population Health Management Office
- Duke Health Population Health Management Office created a Skilled Nursing Facility COVID-19 Advisory Team that includes experts in infectious disease, geropsychiatry, palliative care, and case management who can answer questions and find solutions to any problem related to COVID-19. Questions can be submitted online through their website or tweeted to @DukePhmo
https://phmo.dukehealth.org/covid-19-snf

Duke University, Duke Health Population Health Management
- Duke Health Population Health Management offers a website and updates for skilled nursing facilities
https://phmo.dukehealth.org/covid-19-snf
- Offers frequent updates to the COVID-19 for skilled nursing facilities materials repository
https://duke.app.box.com/v/COVID19forSNF

North Carolina Area Health Education Center, North Carolina Department of Public Health
- North Carolina Area Health Education Center (AHEC) and North Carolina Department of Public Health (DPH) hosts calls on the second and fourth Thursday at 10am for long term care facilities. Subject matter experts from DPH will provide a quick update on any new developments and

respond to questions received during the forum. Slides are archived on the website
https://www.ncahec.net/covid-19/webinars

North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS)
- NCDHHS added hospitalization demographic data to the North Carolina COVID-19 Hospitalizations Demographics Dashboard. Data are provided by age, gender, race, and ethnicity for patients who are newly admitted to the hospital and confirmed or suspected to be positive for COVID-19 at the time of admission. The data provide further insight into the different demographic groups being hospitalized due to COVID-19 https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/dashboard/hospitalization-demographics
- NCDHHS has launched a new Initiative to promote face mask use, social distancing, and hand washing: "Know your W's: Wear Wait Wash" https://files.nc.gov/covid/documents/guidance/healthcare/COVID-19-Statewide-Standing-Order.pdf
- NCDHHS released a fact sheet that gives an overview of what support is available to help eligible residents in target counties to safely isolate/quarantine and what providers can do to connect residents to available resources https://files.nc.gov/covid/documents/info-for/health-care/NCDHHS-Support-Services-Testing-and-Contact-Tracing-Fact-Sheet.pdf
- NCDHHS has provided guidance on outbreak response support in their long term care toolkit https://files.nc.gov/covid/documents/guidance/healthcare/Long-Term-Care-Outbreak-Toolkit-Instructions.pdf
- NCDHHS endorsed use and posted the COVID-19 Long Term Care Infection Control Assessment and Response (ICAR) Tool for Local Health Departments https://files.nc.gov/covid/documents/guidance/healthcare/Long-Term-Care-Infection-Control-Assessment-Tool.pdf
- Providers serve an important role in connecting eligible residents to available isolation and quarantine support. This fact sheet gives an overview of what support is available to help eligible residents in target counties to safely isolate/quarantine and what providers can do to connect residents to available resources https://files.nc.gov/covid/documents/info-for/health-care/NCDHHS-Support-Services-Testing-and-Contact-Tracing-Fact-Sheet.pdf

North Dakota (ND)
North Dakota Council on the Arts - Art for Life Program
- To combat the stress, loneliness and other negative health factors during the COVID-19 quarantine, the North Dakota Council on the Arts - Art for Life Program has redesigned art activities to align with physical distancing and other safety factors while still generating meaningful, impactful interaction. One such effort was beautifully done by Chuck Suchy, a talented and highly respected folk singer, musician and songwriter from rural Mandan, North Dakota (ND). Chuck called elders on the phone and visited with them about their lives, thoughts, and experiences. Using words of inspiration generated from those conversations, four songs were written, performed, and recorded to be shared with those elders, their families, and others within those organizations and in those communities. "We Worked with Horses," was inspired by conversations from Jamestown, ND; "Listen to the Wise," from Enderlin, ND; "At the Center," and "How Will I Know Your Heart," both from Bismarck, ND. The production and sharing of these poignant, relevant tributes is also made possible through the partnering entities

of Bismarck Art & Galleries Association and Burleigh County Senior Adults Program in Bismarck, ND, Enderlin Municipal Fine Arts Association and Maryhill Manor Nursing Home in Enderlin, ND, and Jamestown Fine Arts Association and Ave Maria Village/Heritage Centre in Jamestown, ND
https://greatplainsqin.org/blog/music-the-art-of-life

Ohio (OH)
Canterbury Rehab
- Lessons learned from the COVID-19 outbreak at Canterbury Rehab useful for pre-surge planning on stocking STAT boxes, cohorting, testing, personal protective equipment supplies, and tracking
https://www.ohiomda.org/aws/OMDA/asset_manager/get_file/439319/lessons_learned.pdf

LeadingAge
- Website on helping residents stay connected during the pandemic created a warrior spirit while preparing for COVID-19 cases
- State actions shared for preparing staff for "normalizing the experience" of caring for residents who are COVID-19 positive
- Includes collaborative activities/drills performed in an effort to allay staff fears and elevate morale
https://leadingage.org/helping-residents-stay-connected-during-pandemic?mkt_tok=eyJpIjoiWTJRNVpUSTRNR1F4WWprMiIsInQiOiI0cGZzaWZNXC9LUkFvcGRUdkVMa1BxNzBPa2J0U1RiZ3loZys4VTRxbGZZb0lBU21jakg4azJ3YXRiekpKQjxR0IzbWNaeFFkaTh6VVVHK0hCeG0xR1Z1bmxMMQ05pVU9SeEtnanl
- Created a new technology that enables people to record remotely through a computer or a mobile device. Through StoryCorps Connect, participants can record conversations and instantly share them with the StoryCorps Archive and the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress
https://www.leadingage.org/sites/default/files/SC_Connect_Toolkit_Oranizations_OlderAdults.pdf?_ga=2.33962017.1076603912.1589991326-147757919.1574109328

National Rural Health Association
- Offers COVID-19 resource toolkit for rural providers and health systems
- Toolkit for rural providers is maintained and updated by rural health providers
https://www.ruralhealthweb.org/programs/resources/covid-19-resources

Ohio Department of Health
- The Ohio Departments of Aging, Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Medicaid worked together to create a toolkit for provider organizations and staff serving Ohioans who use long term services and supports (LTSS) or home visiting services during the COVID-19 crisis. This toolkit reflects an aggressive approach to protecting the community for any possible "surge" of individuals contracting COVID-19
https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/docs/Pre-Surge-Longer-Term-Planning-Toolkit.pdf

Office of the Governor Mike DeWine
- Governor DeWine's web page announces any new changes to public policy as it pertains to COVID-19 and nursing homes
- Web page also directs visitors to Ohio Department of Health's COVID-19 website that provides the latest data on COVID-19

- Some of this data does specifically pertain to Ohio's nursing homes
  https://governor.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/governor (log in required)

Ohio Council for Home Care and Hospice
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) COVID-19 recommendations: PowerPoint presentations covering PPE strategies, optimization of supplies, and use and re-use protocols
  https://www.dropbox.com/s/gah35m6xfijutim/PPE%20PP%202.pptx?dl=0

Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
- Developed a free confidential call line to assist those struggling with mental health issues stress and mental fatigue (including health care workers)
  https://mha.ohio.gov/Health-Professionals/About-Mental-Health-and-Addiction-Treatment/Emergency-Preparedness/Coronavirus/COVID-CareLine

Ohio Department of Health
- Created a call center to answer questions about COVID-19 that operates from 9 AM to 8 PM daily, including weekends. Call center staff includes licensed nurses and infectious disease experts available to answer questions and provide accurate information about COVID-19, how to protect yourself and prepare for COVID-19 in your community, its risk to the public, and the state's response
  https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/resources/COVID-19-Call-Center
- COVID-19 education/resource allocation
- Allocation of personal protective equipment from the federal government
- Education/resources made available through website
    - The What Workers and Employers Can Do to Manage Workplace Fatigue During COVID-19 web page outlines general strategies that workers and employers can use to manage workplace fatigue and work safely
      https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/managing-workplace-fatigue.html
    - Other topics include but are not limited to: face mask decontamination, emergency preparedness, preserving personal protective equipment, lab testing, trauma-informed care, exposure management, medication use, care for critically ill, infection control practices, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention resources, World Health Organization resources, and health care provider stress
      https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/healthcare-providers-and-local-health-districts/for-healthcare-providers/for-healthcare-providers
- STRIVE: The new Strategies for Preventing health care acquired infections (HAIs) training is the latest of 11 new infection control training courses. These courses are part of the new STRIVE curriculum intended for the infection prevention team, hospital leaders, clinical educators, nurse and physician managers, environmental services managers, all patient care staff, and patient/family advisors
  https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/know-our-programs/healthcare-associated-infections/news-and-events/newcourse_strive
- Infectious Disease Control Manual: The Infectious Disease Control Manual (IDCM) is a project of the Ohio Department of Health State Bureau of Infectious Diseases created with the assistance of the Bureau of Health Services and the Bureau of Public Health Laboratories. It is designed to be a reference for local health departments, hospitals, laboratories, and physicians in providing information about infectious diseases from a public health perspective, including prevention,

      control, and reporting of suspected and diagnosed cases
https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/know-our-programs/infectious-disease-control-manual/infectious-disease-control-manual

- Avoiding Scams - COVID-19 Checklist: Scammers are trying to monopolize on the fear and uncertainty that COVID-19 has brought to so many
https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/checklists/english-checklists/avoiding-scams-covid-19-checklist

The Academy of Senior Health Sciences
- A listing of various links/guides/educational resources regarding COVID-19 in relation to nursing home resident care
http://www.seniorhealthsciences.org/covid.shtml

Oklahoma (OK)
Be a Neighbor Organization
- Ready.Help.Go. is a volunteer readiness program to connect Oklahomans to volunteer opportunities in their communities
https://beaneighbor.ok.gov/s/volunteer-page

Care Providers of Oklahoma
- Links to resources on developments, guidelines, protocols, policies, and tools for partners and providers
https://www.careoklahoma.com

Oklahoma Assisted Living Association
- Posts recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to prepare for COVID-19 in long term care facilities and nursing homes
- Provides additional interim guidance for infection prevention and control
- Hosts links to COVID-19 resources, such as a COVID-19 checklist, sample letters to families, volunteers and friends, and CDC and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services updates
https://www.okala.org/

Oklahoma County Health Department
- Oklahoma County Health Department implemented a Disaster Distress Helpline to answer calls and texts related to infectious disease outbreaks
https://www.occhd.org/resources

Oklahoma Hospice & Palliative Care Association
- Home page includes COVID-19 resource links and training
https://ohpca.wildapricot.org

Oklahoma Mental Health and Aging Coalition
- Offers website resources, educational materials, and videos for health care staff
http://omhac.org

Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH)
- OSDH uses the 2-1-1 Call Center to share the COVID-19 Symptom Tracker with the public and to

release COVID-19 updates
https://coronavirus.health.ok.gov
- OSDH has developed the Oklahoma COVID-19 Alert System. This tool offers the public and local elected officials an easy way to recognize each county's risk level
https://coronavirus.health.ok.gov/covid-19-alert-system
- OSDH created a COVID-19 website created for additional notifications and resources
- Assistant Deputy Commissioner James Joslin, Service Director Mike Cook, and the Long Term Care Survey Division are holding weekly conference calls with providers and stakeholders
- OSDH created a website to track long term care facilities color coded by county and the county's alert status. This will enable the long term care facilities to monitor and align their reopening plans to the alert status
https://coronavirus.health.ok.gov
- OSDH announced long term care grants available to long term care facilities to enhance infectious disease prevention and mitigation as part of the implementation of Oklahoma's plan for phased reopening in long term care facilities
https://coronavirus.health.ok.gov/ltc-cares-grant

Oklahoma Long-term Care Ombudsman
- Provides aid and resources to residents and families during the COVID-19 crisis
http://www.okdhs.org/services/aging/Pages/ombudsman.aspx

Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences
- Updates Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes (ECHO) to keep health care providers updated as the situation changes, including the state surge plan, extensive resources and tools and State of the State COVID-19 updates every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday
https://health.okstate.edu/echo/covid-19-project-echo.html

Oregon (OR)
Oregon Health Authority
- The Oregon Health Authority posted a resource for understanding COVID-19 testing results in October 2020
https://sharedsystems.dhsoha.state.or.us/DHSForms/Served/le2743.pdf
- In Oregon, there are many players working to support nursing homes and the greater Oregon health care community. State actions identified include:
    o Developed a toolkit for nursing homes
    https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/DISEASESCONDITIONS/COMMUNICABLEDISEASE/HAI/Pages/Long-Term-Care-Facilities.aspx
    o Has an excellent COVID-19 web page with resources
    https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/DISEASESCONDITIONS/DISEASESAZ/Pages/COVID-19.aspx

Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU)
- See the OHSU coronavirus (COVID-19) response website for current information about what OHSU is doing to collaborate with local public health authorities and health systems to contain the spread of the COVID-19 virus.
https://news.ohsu.edu/2020/09/11/preparing-for-the-novel-coronavirus-at-ohsu

Pennsylvania (PA)
Pennsylvania Health Care Association
- Nursing home association representing most nursing homes in Pennsylvania
- Developed long term care facilities preparedness assessment for COVID-19 (recommended to do before any cases identified in their facility) in checklist format for:
    - Visitor restrictions
    - Steps to conduct contact tracing for COVID-19 case
    - Procedure for contact tracing if case of positive test for COVID-19 is a staff person, along with form to document date of exposure, location, and notes
    - Developed three documents on Knowledge Center Reporting Resource Guides to assist nursing homes answer state requests for information (long term care capacity reference guide, long term care manually reporting capacity reference guide, and COVID-19 electronic export information data set long term care)
    - Contracted with Pennsylvania Patient Safety Organization to provide guided technical assistance

Pennsylvania Patient Safety Authority
- Hosts overview, key data, and statistics on COVID-19 web page
- Offers educational tools and resources
- Maintains Twitter feed on COVID-19 alerts and issues
  http://patientsafety.pa.gov/pst/Pages/COVID-19_Coronavirus/hm.aspx

Puerto Rico (PR)
TMF Health Quality Institute
- TMF created the Infection Prevention and Control in Nursing Homes Change Package as a resource to assist long term care (LTC) providers working directly with TMF Quality Innovation Network-Quality Improvement Organization (QIN-QIO) experts to reduce health care-related infections, with focus on *Clostridioides difficile* and urinary tract infections. The Change Package includes a menu of strategies and actionable items to help LTC facilities begin testing changes and improving infection prevention and control in nursing homes. Requires account registration for access
  https://tmfnetworks.org/link?u=1c2d98

Rhode Island (RI)
CareLink, the RI Foundation
- CareLink and the RI Foundation are sponsoring a new show, viewable on a TV, called "Room with a View," to help reduce social isolation for older adults. This engaging TV show is designed just for older adults. It will include activities for mind, body, and spirit. The show is to bring the activities directly to patient and resident rooms
  https://agefriendlyri.org/carelink-and-ri-foundation-partner-to-produce-evidence-based-tv-programming-for-older-adults

Rhode Island Department of Health
- Completed modified infection control assessment and response (ICAR) at all high risk sites to prioritize support
  https://hcaportal.org/portal/uploads/ICAR_BLANK.pdf

- Self-Symptom Checker assists individuals, including nursing home personnel, in determining if/when they should seek medical care, available in English, Spanish, and Portuguese https://covidselfcheck.ri.gov/welcome

South Dakota (SD)
Neighborhoods at Brookview, Brookings, SD
- Facility purchased two tandem wheelchair bicycles that allow residents to participate in bike riding and social engagements in a one-on-one or small-group setting, giving the residents a unique and innovative experience to enjoy the freedom of the outdoors. Each bicycle has a passenger seat at the front, while the cyclist sits behind the passenger. The passenger seat can be quickly released from the cyclist seat and used as a normal wheelchair if needed. Funding was provided through the innovation grant program from the South Dakota Department of Human Services Division of Long Term Care Services and Supports https://www.dakotanewsnow.com/content/news/Brookings-senior-living-center-purchases-tandem-wheelchair-bicycle-570922371.html

Tieszan Memorial Home
- Tieszan Memorial Home used its social media page to inform community and resident's families about COVID 19 mass testing. The intent was for families and residents' representatives to have an opportunity to read the information prior to the personal call to obtain consent for the testing. This provided time for representatives to gather any questions they might have, ultimately contributing to a quicker process in obtaining consents

Walworth County Care Center - Selby, SD
- Walworth County Care Center is among several nursing homes in South Dakota where staff are "dancing in the halls" to bring joy and music to residents
- Both residents and staff look forward to the activity and bringing some silliness, fun, and laughter to the day http://tinyurl.com/y726xvyh

Tennessee (TN)
Tennessee Department of Health (TDOH)
- The TDOH has established an extensive website dedicated to resources for COVID-19 guidance for congregate care settings https://www.tn.gov/health/cedep/ncov/congregate-care-settings.html

Tennessee Department of Health (TDOH), Tennessee COVID-19 Unified-Command
- On September 17, 2020, TDOH and Tennessee COVID-19 Unified-Command announced three new initiatives, including expanded visitation options, enhanced resident interactions, and a new Tennessee COVID-19 Long Term Care Task Force https://www.tn.gov/health/news/2020/9/17/tennessee-launches-new-initiatives-for-long-term-care-facility-residents.html

Texas (TX)
Texas Health and Human Services Commission, Department of State Health Services
- Provide targeted online resources for nursing facilities, including webinars, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) resources, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)

resources, Occupational Safety and Health Administration guidance, mental health support lines for Texans, and provider letters

Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) Long-Term Care Regulatory Division (LTCR)
- The Texas HHSC posted slides from a September 2, 2020, presentation that is loaded with helpful information for Texas nursing homes. The information is inclusive of: government text alerts, online training, N-95 mask availability, Relief Fund information, Doctors Without Borders assistance, testing, and more
https://hhs.texas.gov/sites/default/files/documents/doing-business-with-hhs/providers/long-term-care/nf/nf-covid-updates-qa-webinar-sept-2-2020.pdf

TMF Health Quality Institute
- TMF created the Infection Prevention and Control in Nursing Homes Change Package as a resource to assist long term care (LTC) providers working directly with TMF Quality Innovation Network-Quality Improvement Organization (QIN-QIO) experts to reduce health care-related infections, with focus on *Clostridioides difficile* and urinary tract infections. The Change Package includes a menu of strategies and actionable items to help LTC facilities begin testing changes and improving infection prevention and control in nursing homes. Requires account registration for access
https://tmfnetworks.org/link?u=1c2d98

Utah (UT)
Alzheimer's Association
- Provided guidance on managing patients with dementia as these patients can be difficult in complying with safety guidelines, such as maintaining a safe distance

State of Utah
- Check out the Utah COVID-19 response story map updated monthly (scroll to the bottom of timeline)
https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/cabf07b39a6046ee992f1630949a7c80

Utah Coronavirus Task Force
- The Facebook page, "The State of Utah's COVID-19," posted new videos covering the following topics: quarantine, quarantine vs. isolation, staying home after testing, and protecting higher risk individuals. The page provides regular updates and information resources from the task force, led by Lt. Governor Spencer Cox
https://www.facebook.com/utahcoronavirus/photos/a.118780509742021/171252414494830/

Utah Department of Health
- The state of Utah has modified its Provider Order for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST) form, waiving the requirement of in-person signing of documents and using national tools and guidance to ensure providers are prepared for end of life discussions and processes
https://health.utah.gov/hflcra/forms/POLST/POLSTStatic_Revised2-16.pdf

Vermont (VT)
Vermont State Department of Health
- Modified infection control assessment and response (ICAR) programs in all facilities to prioritize

support
- A COVID-19 hotline is available for providers to call with questions about screening patients for testing
  https://www.healthvermont.gov/response/coronavirus-covid-19/long-term-care-and-group-living-settings

Virginia (VA)
Virginia Department of Health (VDH)
- VDH developed a guide of holiday considerations for long term care facility residents and their families. This document includes factors to consider when making decisions about residents joining holiday celebrations
  https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/182/2020/11/Copy-of-Considerations_LTC-Residents-Leaving-for-Holiday_FINAL.pdf
- Virginia Project ECHO is offering a Just-in-Time COVID-19 Learning Series, covering testing, telehealth, personal protective equipment (PPE), isolation, cohorting, medical management, and vulnerable populations
  https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/project-echo
- Through the Virginia's Governor COVID-19 Long Term Care (LTC) Task Force, an LTC Facility Playbook to Access Resources to Support COVID-19 Outbreak Response was created. The playbook serves as a resource for how to access various staffing, supplies, infection control expertise, and other resources to support response to COVID-19 outbreaks
  https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/182/2020/05/VirginiaLongTermCareFacilityTaskForceCOVIDPlaybook.pdf

Virginia Hospital Alerting & Status System (VHASS)
- VHASS, an emergency management partnership between the Virginia Department of Health and the Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association, created an online COVID-19 resource center and Virginia COVID-19 surveillance data
- A long term care VHASS daily situation report, posted daily, includes the number of nursing home residents with reported/confirmed COVID-19, number of residents pending confirmation, and current personal protective equipment (PPE) needs in nursing homes
- Regional health care coalitions are the point of contact for skilled nursing facilities, dialysis centers, and hospitals that need PPE
  https://vhass.org/regional-info

Washington (WA)
Nursing Homes
- Nursing homes have distributed iPads and laptops to residents to facilitate virtual communication and visits with families
- Nursing homes have provided end of life and advance care planning education for all staff, using national tools and guidance to ensure providers are prepared for end of life discussions and processes
- Infection preventionists from the local public health districts and state departments of health are providing consultation to nursing homes

Office of the Governor Jay Inslee, Washington State Department of Health
- Governor Jay Inslee has set out a four-phase process for lifting restrictions in the state of

Washington, with several available resources for businesses, including:
- o Back to the workplace presentation for unit leaders
- o COVID-19 Safety Training: Back to the Workplace
- o Signage, posters, and graphics
- o Guide to face coverings, masks, and other personal protective equipment (PPE)
- o Campus reopening guide
  https://www.washington.edu/coronavirus/work-task-force
- Governor Jay Inslee and state public health leaders developed an online COVID-19 risk assessment dashboard to help make determinations about whether it is safe for a county to enter a new phase of reopening
  https://coronavirus.wa.gov/what-you-need-know/covid-19-risk-assessment-dashboard

Washington State Counties
- Washington state residents can call a toll-free number or text "coronavirus" to a designated number and receive the most current information on COVID-19 including county-level updates and resources for families, businesses, students and more
  https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus

West Virginia (WV)
West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources
- Launched "WV's Emotional StrengthLine: Help304," a hotline providing healthcare workers social, emotional, and supportive counseling via call, text or chat. The hotline's crisis counselors provide information on stress management, COVID-19 testing, food pantries, and more
  https://www.help304.com/covid-stress/healthcare-workers

West Virginia Department of Health and Human Services, Bureau of Public Health
- Developed a COVID-19 website
  https://dhhr.wv.gov/COVID-19/Pages/default.aspx
  - o Outlines provider responsibility for reporting requirements for suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19
  - o Offers general information on West Virginia resources:
    - ▪ Resuming elective surgeries
    - ▪ Medical transport guidelines
    - ▪ Emergency department recommendations
    - ▪ Long term care (LTC) guidelines
    - ▪ Homeless service providers
    - ▪ Criteria and resources for specimen collection and testing specific to West Virginia
    - ▪ Death reporting guidelines for COVID-19
- Includes long term care (LTC) facility outbreak resources:
  - o Guidelines for COVID-19 outbreaks in LTC facilities:
    - ▪ Contact precautions
    - ▪ Hand hygiene observation tool
    - ▪ Long term care facility outbreak resources toolkit
    - ▪ Home care resources:
      - - Home care and self-isolation guidance for people with suspected or confirmed COVID-19
      - - Guidance on cleaning when caring for ill person in the home

West Virginia Health Care Association, West Virginia Department of Health and Human Services Bureau for Public Health Division of Infectious Disease Epidemiology
- Developed guidelines for COVID-19 outbreaks in long term care facilities
  https://dhhr.wv.gov/COVID-19/Pages/default.aspx
- Covers following topics:
  - Outbreak definitions
  - Preventing an outbreak
  - What to do if case detected
  - Measures to control outbreak
  - Lab testing
  - Health care personnel exposure
  - Management of residents returning from hospitalization or new admissions
  - Criteria to remove residents from isolation
  - Criteria for returning to work for exposed health care workers
  - Environmental cleaning and disinfection
  - Implement environmental infection control
  - Employee screening tool
  - Visitor screening tool
  - Nursing facility transfer

Wisconsin (WI)
LeadingAge
- Sends daily email for members and business partners highlighting practical tools for staff conversations
- Focus on staff morale and facilitating challenging conversations and a motivational quote called "Thought for the Day," in addition to sharing many resources and training opportunities

LeadingAge and LeadingChoice Network
- Released policy, FAQ, and audit tools for conducting outdoor visits safely, among several other topics. Upon clicking the link, scroll down to the nursing home heading
  https://leadingagewi.org/members-subscribers/coronavirus-covid-19-information-resources

Wisconsin Department of Health Services
- The Wisconsin Department of Health Services has a webpage of COVID-19 guidance for Wisconsin nursing homes inclusive of patient care, staffing, testing, infection control, visitation, and more
  https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/nursing-homes.htm
- Shared resources specific to memory care individuals and ways to keep residents engaged, such as through the use of technology
  https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/ltc.htm
- Shared resources to support skilled nursing facilities in determining admission policies during a COVID-19 outbreak
  https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/dph/memos/communicable-diseases/snf-considerations-admissions-during-outbreak.pdf

Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Resilient Wisconsin
- Building Resilience During Winter Celebrations
https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p02843.pdf

Stop the COVID Spread! Coalition
- "Stop the COVID Spread!" is a coalition of Wisconsin's leading health care, business, and advocacy organizations along with prominent individuals who have joined together to urge the public to take preventative measures seriously so that community members can all continue to safely participate in Wisconsin's economy
https://www.wha.org/stopthecovidspread

Wyoming (WY)
Wyoming Department of Health Regional Long Term Care Ombudsman
- Proposed to use civil penalties monies to purchase iPads for nursing homes' statewide use for residents to keep in contact with families and loves ones
- Wyoming Department of Health contact person is Lee Alter at lee.alter@wyogov.com

Wyoming Community Protection Initiative Team
- Community Protection Initiative team will support the Wyoming Department of Health with the following:
  - Data systems and data analysis
  - Prevention, infection control, and containment of infections in long term care facilities and psychiatric facilities
  - Community mitigation and infection prevention and control among tribal communities
  - Case identification and contact tracing
https://health.wyo.gov/cdc-team-deployed-to-wyoming-to-supplement-existing-efforts

Wyoming Office of the First Lady Jennie Gordon, Wyoming Department of Health Aging Division
- Collaborating to send cards, letters, and notes to residents of skilled nursing facilities and senior centers
- First Lady Jennie Gordon produced a video explaining the concept
https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=519102808788094

15. SCREENING/VISITORS

Alabama (AL)
Alabama Nursing Home Association (ANHA)
- The ANHA developed materials to assist facilities with facilitating indoor visitation in accord with Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services September 2020 guidance http://www.anha.org/uploads/ANHAIndoorVisitationGuidance.pdf

Office of the Governor Kay Ivey
- Governor Kay Ivey and State Health Officer Dr. Scott Harris issued an amended state health order, effective October 2, 2020, that allows for limited indoor visitation in hospitals and nursing homes in alignment with guidelines issued by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services https://governor.alabama.gov/assets/2020/09/Safer-at-Home-Order-Final-9.29.2020.pdf
- Amended the "Safer at Home Order" until December 11, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. https://governor.alabama.gov/assets/2020/11/GKI-2020-Health-Order-Update-Dec-11-Horizontal.pdf

Arizona (AZ)
Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS)
- Revised November 10, 2020, ADHS updated its guidance to address off-site visitation. ADHS does not recommend off-site visitation for long term care residents when a county is experiencing moderate or substantial COVID-19 spread. Exposure cannot be ruled out if a resident leaves the facility to stay with a family member. This recommendation does not, however, apply to medically necessary trips https://www.azdhs.gov/documents/preparedness/epidemiology-disease-control/infectious-disease-epidemiology/novel-coronavirus/healthcare-providers/congregate-visitation.pdf
- ADHS approved new guidelines regarding visitation in congregate settings, including nursing homes. The guidelines were proposed by the Governor's Task Force for Long-Term Care and cover the thresholds for community spread of COVID-19 and facility implementation of mitigation strategies. Community spread thresholds set visitation requirements based on COVID-19 cases, COVID-19-like illness and the percentage of positive COVID-19 tests. The guidance calls for facilities to allow compassionate care visits regardless of the level of community spread. Mitigation strategies require visitors to present a negative COVID-19 test less than 48 hours old; attestations regarding isolation after testing; limited contact time and dedicated visitation space; mask-wearing requirements for residents (when safe), visitors, and staff; hand sanitizing requirements; visitor logs to facilitate contact tracing; and enhanced facility cleaning and sanitation https://www.azdhs.gov/documents/preparedness/epidemiology-disease-control/infectious-disease-epidemiology/novel-coronavirus/community/congregate-visitation.pdf

Maricopa County Department of Public Health
- Created a nursing home visitation reference that combines guidance from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Arizona Department of Health Services. The guidance notes key differences between the two sources and identifies situations when CMS guidance is more stringent. The document also describes what types of visitation are permitted based on COVID-19 community spread, facility policies, communication, and mitigation

measures
https://www.maricopa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/63758/LTCF-Visitation-Guidance_CMS_FINAL_109

Arkansas (AR)
Greenhurst Nursing Center
- Facility has been highlighted in the news and social media for its "visiting station" https://www.5newsonline.com/article/news/health/coronavirus/greenhurt-living-center-made-visiting-stations-for-residents/527-5ca4dd04-da93-4701-9af3-4fb594cdef06

California (CA)
California Department of Public Health (CDPH)
- On November 16, 2020, CDPH provided COVID-19 infection control recommendations and guidance to nursing homes to help ensure safety during holiday celebrations for residents, families, and facilities. The guidance includes tips on private gatherings, resident placement after returning to the facility, and communal activities in facilities https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/Pages/AFL-20-86.aspx
- The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) issued an All Facilities Letter (AFL) on October 23, 2020 providing updated guidance relative to visitation in long term care facilities. The AFL updated CDPH's visitation guidance to align with CMS QSO-20-39-NH, which was distributed to all nursing homes on September 17, 2020. Indoor and outdoor visitation guidelines were updated, including guidance for visitation in the green zone https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/Pages/AFL-20-22.aspx
- The California Department of Public Health All Facilities Letter (AFL) provides resources and guidance for skilled nursing facilities on preparing for COVID-19 and a toolkit for management of exposures and recognized cases in skilled nursing facilities titled, "Preparing for COVID-19 in California Skilled Nursing Facilities" https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/CDPH%20Document%20Library/AFL-20-25-Attachment-01-SNF-Checklist.pdf
- The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) distributed All Facilities Letter (AFL) 20-77 to notify nursing homes about the availability of a new federal civil money penalty grant opportunity for facilities to purchase materials that aid with in-person visitation. Up to $3,000 is available for tents, clear partitions, and installation costs. The AFL provided the link to the fillable, electronic template application and instructions on submitting the request https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/Pages/AFL-20-77.aspx

Florida (FL)
Advent Health Care Center Orlando North
- The Advent Health Care Center Orlando North has implemented a successful visitation program for family members. As part of the program, visitors receive a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention video prior to the visit to ensure understanding and expectations during the visit

Florida Agency for Health Care Administration
- Shared Florida Health Care Association tool kit with screening resources https://www.fhca.org/facility_operations/coronavirus

Georgia (GA)
Georgia Department of Community Health
- On September 21, 2020, the Georgia Department of Community Health issued a revised Administrative Order outlining long term care facility reopening guidance. Topics covered in the order include:
    - Recommendations for progression through phases
    - Critical components of infection prevention and control
    - Considerations to identify pandemic phase and recommended mitigation steps
    - Testing requirements and guidance
    - Guidance for time outdoors, window visits, and outdoor visits
    - Considerations for assisted living communities
    - Considerations for memory care units
    - Reporting to the National Healthcare Safety Network
    https://dch.georgia.gov/announcement/2020-09-21/dph-issues-revised-guidance-allow-safe-visitation-georgias-long-term-care

Indiana (IN)
Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH)
- ISDH updated the COVID-19 website to include guidance from the September 17, 2020, CMS memorandum on nursing home visitation
https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN_COVID-19 Back On Track Guidelines 7.23.20.pdf
- On October 19, 2020, ISDH updated its webpage with guidelines related to staff screening and adhering to the CDC's Return to Work Criteria.
    - Staff Screening: Continue staff screening and temperature checks at the start of each shift and do not permit entry if any symptoms of COVID-19 are present.
    - Return to Work Criteria: LTC facilities with active COVID-19 cases can continue to employ asymptomatic COVID-positive staff in COVID–dedicated units within the facility. Asymptomatic COVID-positive staff working in a facility without a COVID-19 unit should stay off duty for a minimum of 10 days and 24-hours fever free (without use of fever-reducing medications), and show improvement in other symptoms before returning to work
    https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN_COVID-19%20Back%20On%20Track%20Guidelines%2010.19.20.pdf
- Dated October 20, 2020, ISDH released a screening tool template for nursing homes to use in screening visitors prior to allowing them in the facility
https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/Visitor%20Screening%20form%20for%20COVID-19%2010-20-20.pdf

- Dated November 4, 2020, Holiday Guidance for Residents of Long-Term Care Facilities and Residents' Families and Representatives provided recommendations for holiday visits with family members in long term care facilities
  https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN_COVID-19_LTC%20holiday%20guidance%2011.6.20.pdf
- Dated November 13, 2020, Visitation Guidelines for Long-Term Care Facilities updated guidance on recommended limitations on excursions outside of long term care facilities
  https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN_COVID-19%20Back%20On%20Track%20Guidelines%2011.13.20.pdf
- Dated November 22, 2020, the COVID-19 Toolkit for Long-Term Care Facility Staff includes revised visitation guidelines
  https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN_COVID-19%20IP%20Toolkit%20ISDH_10.30.2020.pdf

Office of the Governor Eric Holcomb
- Executive Order 20-48 released on November 13, 2020 provides guidance on visitation restrictions based on county positivity rates that are aligned with Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and Indiana State Department of Health guidelines
  https://www.ihca.org/resource/governor-holcomb-issues-executive-order-20-48

Kentucky (KY)
Office of the Governor Andy Beshear
- On October 26, 2020, Governor Andy Beshear reported 953 COVID-19 cases in Kentucky and issued new red zone reduction recommendations to stop COVID-19 spread and protect Kentuckians in the 55 counties currently in the red zone. Hospitalizations and deaths are also increasing nationally and in Kentucky. New red zone recommendations provide direction on how communities can come together to defeat COVID-19. Red zone counties are those with 25 or more average daily cases of COVID-19 per 100,000 residents. Red zone counties are updated daily on the incidence rate map on the kycovid19.ky.gov web page
- The Governor said when a county turns red, we are already asking schools to go virtual, we ask for sports to pause and we restrict visitation in long term care facilities
- Red Zone Reduction Recommendations:
  o Employers should allow employees to work from home when possible
  o Government offices that do not provide critical services need to operate virtually
  o Reduce in-person shopping; order online or pickup curbside as much as possible
  o Order take-out; avoid dining in restaurants or bars
  o Prioritize businesses that follow and enforce the mask mandate and other guidelines
  o Reschedule, postpone, or cancel public events
  o Do not host or attend gatherings of any size
  o Avoid non-essential activities outside your home
  o Reduce overall activity and contacts, and follow existing guidance
    https://chfs.ky.gov/News/Documents/nrredzonerecommendations.pdf

Maine (ME)
The Lincoln Home, Newcastle, Maine
- The Lincoln Home's porch in Newcastle has been transformed to serve as a safe place for family visitation. The home divided the screened porch in half with Plexiglass to allow family to enter their part of the porch from the outside and residents enter from the inside
  https://www.mehca.org/files/QualityRegs/MHCA_COVID_Update_InnovationCorner_Frontline

Warmline_ResOutApptsQuar_NewABNForm_CMSReleasesFAQVisitations_062520.pdf

Michigan (MI)
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)
- MDHHS maintains a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document, regarding visitation, to support facilities in their implementation of MDHHS Emergency Order Under MCL 333.2253 https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdhhs/MDHHS_LTCF_COVID19_Visitation_FAQs_v3_10.30.20_706642_7.pdf

Minnesota (MN)
Minnesota Department of Health (MDH)
- Released guidance for selecting in-building visitation areas in long term care facilities https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/hcp/inbuildingvisit.pdf
- On October 2020, posted updated documents to the website related to visitation and activity restrictions and essential caregiver guidance. The documents were updated to reflect key revisions that align more closely with CMS guidance and best practices. Revisions include:
    - Facilities must have had no new onset COVID-19 cases in the last 14 (versus 28) days
    - Health care workers, who are not employees but provide direct care to residents, can enter the facility subject to screening protocols.
    - Facilities in medium- or high-positivity counties are encouraged to test visitors
    - Expanding the definition of "compassionate care" is expanded to include "essential caregivers"
      https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/hcp/nhvisit.pdf
      https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/hcp/ltccaregiver.pdf
- Developed Recommendations for Long-term Care (LTC) Visitation and Activities: How and When to Safely Transition to the Next Level Throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic. The document provides guidance to LTC facilities about how and when to ease limitations on visits and activities based on risk. Level one is the most restrictive; and level two eases restrictions for facilities successfully preventing and controlling infections https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/hcp/ltcvisitsum.pdf
- Temporarily banned all visitors to nursing homes; exceptions made for family members under special circumstances, such as critically ill or end of life patients and parents of minor children
- Implemented enhanced respiratory surveillance in long term care facilities to rapidly identify any potential outbreaks of COVID-19 – March 17, 2020 (Department of Health Order)
- MDH Engineering Section developed guidelines for temporary tent structures and clear dividers for in-person long term care visits https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/hcp/ltcvisittent.pdf

Missouri (MO)
Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS)
- Missouri DHSS issued guidance for long term care facilities to establish essential caregiver programs and allow visits
https://health.mo.gov/living/healthcondiseases/communicable/novel-coronavirus/pdf/visitation-guidance.pdf

New York (NY)
Hebrew Home, Riverdale, New York
- Hebrew Home implemented an innovative drive-in visit protocol for families to visit residents who are COVID-19 negative
https://www.riverspringhealth.org/drive-in-visits

New York State Department of Health
- Newly launched mobile contact tracing app, *COVID Alert NY*, is a voluntary, anonymous, exposure-notification smartphone app. The app will send a user an alert if they were in close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19. Knowing about a potential exposure allows an individual to self-quarantine immediately, get tested, and reduce the potential exposure risk to family, friends, neighbors, co-workers and others. The free mobile app is available to anyone 18 or older who lives, works, or attends college in New York or New Jersey. It is available for download from the Google Play Store or Apple App Store. *COVID Alert NY* is available in English, Spanish, Chinese, Bengali, Korean, Russian and Haitian Creole
https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-alert-ny

North Carolina (NC)
North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS), Office of the Governor Roy Cooper
- On September 28, 2020, the NCDHHS updated guidance to allow indoor visitation in nursing homes that have gone 14 days without a COVID-19 case and in counties with a COVID-19 positive test rate of 10 percent or less
https://www.ncdhhs.gov/news/press-releases/ncdhhs-updates-nursing-home-visitation-order-state-has-stabilizing-metrics

Office of the Governor Roy Cooper
- North Carolina moved into Phase 2.5 on Sept 4, 2020. Allowable mass gatherings increased to 25 people indoors and 50 people outdoors. Masks are now mandatory for people ages five and up
https://governor.nc.gov/news/north-carolina-move-phase-25

Ohio (OH)
Ohio Department of Health, Department of Veterans Services
- Issued directive limiting nursing home visits, except in end of life cases
https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/OHOOD/2020/03/12/file_attachments/1398815/ODH%20Order%20on%20Nursing%20Homes.pdf

Ohio Department of Health
- Screening Employees for COVID-19: COVID-19 Information for Employers and Employees
https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/resources/general-resources/Screening-Employees-for-COVID-19

Oklahoma (OK)
Governor's COVID-19 Solution Task Force and Response Team
- Transformed Oklahoma's 2-1-1 hotline into a tool for Oklahomans to call and receive screening support for COVID-19
  https://coronavirus.health.ok.gov/governors-actions

Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH)
- See the OSDH webpage pertaining to long term care COVID-19 resources. The site covers a wide variety of information for providers aa well as residents and visitors.
  https://www.ok.gov/health/Protective_Health/Long_Term_Care_Service/LTC_COVID-19_Resources/index.html

Oregon (OR)
State of Oregon
- In October, the Oregon Department of Human Services updated visitation guidance for long term care facilities
  https://www.oregon.gov/dhs/COVID-19/Documents/Limited-Indoor-Visitation-Overview.pdf

Pennsylvania (PA)
Pennsylvania Department of Health
- On September 3, 2020, the Pennsylvania Department of Health provided updated COVID-19 guidance to all skilled nursing facilities. The updates cover screening recommendations, safe access for compassionate care, resident advocate facility access, and timeline for lifting mitigation restrictions and recommended testing intervals in accordance with community spread
  https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Guidance/SNF-Guidance.aspx

Pennsylvania Health Care Association (PHCA)
- Nursing home association representing most nursing homes in Pennsylvania
  https://www.phca.org/covid19
- Developed long term care facilities preparedness assessment for COVID-19 (recommended to complete before any cases identified in their facility) in checklist format for:
  - Education, monitoring, and screening of all residents
  - Document active screening of residents every 12 hours for COVID-19 symptoms
  - Screen staff prior to shift for symptoms of COVID-19

South Carolina (SC)
South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC)
- On September 1, 2020, DHEC released guidelines for limited outdoor visitation in nursing homes and community residential care facilities. These guidelines are based on the most recent Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) guidance for reopening nursing homes, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance for COVID-19 in nursing homes, and CMS long-term care facility testing requirements
https://www.scdhec.gov/news-releases/dhec-provides-new-guidelines-limited-outdoor-visitation-nursing-homes-assisted-living

South Dakota (SD)
Avera Prince of Peace Retirement Community
- Avera Prince of Peace Retirement Community created a visitation booth that separates residents from their visitors by a piece of plexiglass. Family members can contact the nursing home to reserve a time for the booth
https://www.dakotanewsnow.com/content/news/Avera-Prince-of-Peace-Retirement-Community-opens-visitation-booth-571012061.html

Prairie Heights Healthcare
- The maintenance department constructed a hand-holding booth for residents and family members that promotes resident safety and social distancing while still providing human connection
https://www.facebook.com/prairieheightshc/posts/688976608720678

Tennessee (TN)
Tennessee Department of Health (TDOH), Tennessee COVID-19 Unified-Command
- On September 17, 2020, TDOH and Tennessee COVID-19 Unified-Command announced three new initiatives, including expanded visitation options, enhanced resident interactions, and a new Tennessee COVID-19 Long Term Care Task Force
https://www.tn.gov/health/news/2020/9/17/tennessee-launches-new-initiatives-for-long-term-care-facility-residents.html
Tennessee Health Care Association (THCA)
- Posted toolkit for facility visitor screening
https://www.thca.org/files/2020/03/FHCA-COVID-19-Visitor-Screening-Toolkit.pdf

Texas (TX)
State of Texas
- All licensed long term care facilities must screen all individuals entering the facility, including staff and newly admitted residents
- Based on federal guidance, Texas restricts non-essential visitors to nursing homes and encourages the use of alternate means of communication between residents and family members and friends

Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC)
- On September 24, 2020, the Texas Health and Human Services Commission expanded visitation guidelines for eligible nursing, assisted living, and intermediate care facilities. Under the new rules, residents will be allowed to designate up to two essential family caregivers who will be

provided necessary training to allow them to safely go inside a facility for a scheduled visit, including in the resident's room, to help ensure their loved one's physical, social and emotional needs are being met. Designated caregivers will not be required to maintain physical distancing, but only one caregiver can visit a resident at a time https://hhs.texas.gov/about-hhs/communications-events/news/2020/09/hhsc-expands-visitation-long-term-care-facilities

Washington (WA)
Washington State Department of Health
- Updated recommendations for long term care facilities with sample visitor announcements, employee callout logs and outdoor visitation guidelines for facilities https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/COVID19/HealthcareProviders/LongTermCareFacilities
- Developed a website that provides long term care facilities with up-to-date information and guidance on COVID-19. Resources include risk assessments, visitor announcements, outbreak criteria, outdoor visitation guidance, signage, point prevalence testing information, and more https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/NovelCoronavirusOutbreak2020COVID19/HealthcareProviders/LongTermCareFacilities

West Virginia (WV)
Stonerise Healthcare LLC
- Stonerise Healthcare LLC has adapted its online dashboard to reflect the visitor reopening phased approach the Office of the Governor began on June 17, 2020
- Visitor Reopening Phases for centers will fall into one of four phases based on the current spread of COVID-19 as outlined by Governor Justice. The phases are as follows:
  o Phase Red: Active COVID-19-positive residents or positive residents within the last 14 days
  o Phase Blue: Can be called at any time during Phase Yellow or Phase Green if two or more residents test positive, or if it is determined that there is substantial community spread as defined by the Bureau for Public Health
  o Phase Yellow: Facilities with no COVID-19-positives, and/or no substantial community spread for the immediately preceding 14 days
  o Phase Green: Facilities that have progressed 14 consecutive days under phase yellow with no COVID-19-positives and no substantial community spread https://stonerisehealthcare.com/location-status

West Virginia Health Care Association
- In conjunction with West Virginia Department of Health and Human Services Bureau for Public Health Division of Infectious Disease Epidemiology, developed guidelines for COVID-19 outbreaks in long term care facilities https://dhhr.wv.gov/COVID-19/Pages/default.aspx
  o Employee screening tool
  o Visitor screening tool

Wyoming (WY)
Wyoming Department of Health (WDH)
- On October 1, 2020, WDH released recommendations for assisted living and nursing homes to consider when allowing visitors. The recommendations align with those that were released by

the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services on September 17, 2020
https://health.wyo.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/SNF-and-ALF-
Guidance_UpdateSept2020_FINAL_PDF.pdf

16. VACCINATIONS

APPLICABLE TO ALL STATES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- On August 21, 2020, the CDC published the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices regarding the use of seasonal influenza vaccines in the United States for the 2020-2021 influenza season
https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/rr/rr6908a1.htm?s_cid=rr6908a1_w
- The CDC website includes a webpage dedicated to influenza as it pertains to people 65 years of age and older. Information covers the importance of influenza vaccination during the COVID-19 pandemic, the elevated risk of older adults, types of vaccine formulated for older adults (such as higher potency vaccine), pneumococcal vaccination, other preventive actions, symptoms, treatment, and more
https://www.cdc.gov/flu/highrisk/65over.htm
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) regarding the 2020-2021 influenza (flu) season are available on the CDC website. Categories in the FAQ include: details of the 2020-2021 flu vaccines, information about the flu as it pertains to COVID-19, obtaining a flu vaccine amidst the COVID-19 pandemic as well as administering flu vaccines during the COVID-19 pandemic, and more
https://www.cdc.gov/flu/season/faq-flu-season-2020-2021.htm
- The CDC website contains a toolkit for increasing influenza vaccination among health care workers in long term care settings
https://www.cdc.gov/flu/toolkit/long-term-care/index.htm
- Information for health care professionals regarding the 2020-2021 influenza season. Find links to resources addressing vaccination, infection control, prevention, treatment and diagnosis of seasonal influenza
https://www.cdc.gov/flu/season/health-care-professionals.htm
- Information on the 2020-2021 seasonal influenza vaccine supply available on the CDC website
https://www.cdc.gov/flu/prevent/vaxsupply.htm - :~:text=For the 2020-2021 season, only multidose vial presentations of,i.e., preservative-free
- The CDC webpage, "Pneumococcal Vaccination: What Everyone Should Know," provides information about who should and who should not get pneumococcal vaccine, types of vaccine, efficacy of the vaccine, side effects, and more
https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/pneumo/public/index.html
- Information for health care professionals about pneumococcal vaccination, including storage and handling guidance as well as proper administration with specified intervals between doses
https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/pneumo/hcp/index.html

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)
- CMS does not currently require written consent for vaccines; however, there is a legal requirement to provide the Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) for specified vaccines. See this helpful document posted by the Immunization Action Coalition
https://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2027.pdf
- CMS maintains a webpage for providers presenting an array of information about billing and coding for flu shots
https://www.cms.gov/flu-provider

- See this October 28, 2020, news release from CMS which reports that the federal government will be providing access to the COVID-19 vaccine at no cost to all Americans
  https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/trump-administration-acts-ensure-coverage-life-saving-covid-19-vaccines-therapeutics

United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
- Health care providers are required by law to report adverse events, following vaccination, that fall under certain criteria. HHS' online resource, "Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System (VAERS)," provides complete information about reporting and includes links for reporting online or via PDF form
  https://vaers.hhs.gov/reportevent.html
- On September 23, 2020, HHS announced upcoming action by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to provide $200 million to jurisdictions for COVID-19 vaccine preparedness. Funding from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) will provide critical infrastructure support to existing grantees through CDC's immunization cooperative agreement. CDC is awarding $200 million to 64 jurisdictions through the existing Immunizations and Vaccines for Children cooperative agreement. These funds, along with the previous support CDC has provided, will help states prepare for the COVID-19 vaccine
  https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/09/23/administration-announces-200-million-from-cdc-jurisdictions-covid-19-vaccine-preparedness.html
- HHS posted a report, "From the Factory to the Frontlines: The Operation Warp Speed Strategy for Distributing a COVID-19 Vaccine." This report to Congress details a strategy to achieve the principal purpose and objective of Operation Warp Speed: ensuring that every American who wants to receive a COVID-19 vaccine can receive one, by delivering safe and effective vaccine doses to the American people beginning January 2021
  https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/strategy-for-distributing-covid-19-vaccine.pdf
- See this slide deck of the CDC's COVID-19 Vaccination Program Interim Playbook for Jurisdiction Operations. It covers considerations for states, territories, and local public health programs regarding operationalizing COVID-19 vaccine response in their jurisdiction.
  https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/imz-managers/downloads/COVID-19-Vaccination-Program-Interim_Playbook.pdf

United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), United States Department of Defense (DoD)
- On October 16, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services and the United States Department of Defense announced the Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care Program. Agreements were made with CVS and Walgreens to both provide and administer COVID-19 vaccine to long term care community, both residents and staff. There will be no out of pocket costs to the vaccine recipients. Starting October 19, 2020, facilities will be able indicate their preference for opting in and select their pharmacy source. Of note, this program is not mandated for long term care facilities.
  https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/10/16/trump-aministration-partners-cvs-walgreens-provide-covid-19-vaccine-protect-vulnerable-americans-long-term-care-facilities-nationwide.html

<div align="center">STATE-SPECIFIC ACTIONS</div>

Alabama (AL)
Alabama Department of Health (ADPH)
- On November 6, 2020, ADPH released its COVID-19 vaccine distribution and administration plan
  https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/news/2020/11/06c.html
- Beginning October 1, all Immunization Patient Registry with Integrated Technology (ImmPRINT) enrolled health care providers can order a minimum of 100 doses of free adult flu vaccines.
  - ImmPRINT is a statewide population-based information system for all children born in Alabama since January 1, 1993 and adults
    https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/immunization/assets/fluvaccine_adult.pdf

Alaska (AK)
Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association
- The first COVID-19 vaccines are likely to be available on a limited basis before the end of the year. Health care workers (including nursing home staff) will be among the first groups eligible to receive the vaccines. Recognizing there are many questions about the safety and efficacy of the COVID-19 vaccines that need to be answered so health care workers will choose to get the vaccine. See this link for ongoing updates
  https://www.ashnha.com/covid-members

Florida (FL)
Brevard County Health Coalition - Health Council of East Central Florida, VIP America, Yates and Associates, One Senior Place, Florida Department of Health Brevard County
- The Brevard County Health Coalition has started a flu vaccine campaign to increase the rates of flu immunization in their county. In less than a month, they created a publicity campaign and identified multiple partners and data sources. The campaign will be focused on the community but targeting businesses and organizations. They have developed public service announcements and promote flu clinic events
  https://www.321flushotliftoff.com

Duval County Medical Society Foundation
- #FluVaxJax is a community-wide campaign, led by the Duval County Medical Society (DCMS) Foundation, aimed at raising the flu vaccination rate in Clay, Duval, Nassau, and St. Johns Counties. With flu season coming soon, the campaign aims to decrease the number of patients that need to be seen for flu to ensure there is plenty of capacity to treat COVID-19 and other illnesses. The #FluVaxJax campaign is also providing no-cost flu shots to the uninsured. Those in need can visit fluvaxjax.com and click "Get a Vaccine." Learn more about the #FluVaxJax campaign by visiting the webpage at fluvaxjax.com
  https://www.dcmsonline.org/page/FluVaxjax

Georgia (GA)
Georgia Department of Public Health

- The Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) has a message for Georgians: "Everyone needs a flu shot. Yes, you!" That's the focus of a new campaign urging all Georgians over the age of six months to get a flu shot this year. "Now more than ever, influenza vaccination is critical not only to protect people from getting sick, but to reduce the burden on our healthcare system already caring for COVID-19 patients," said Kathleen E. Toomey, MD, MPH., DPH commissioner. "Even if the vaccine doesn't prevent illness from flu completely, it can help reduce the severity and risk of serious complications – and keep people out of the hospital during this COVID-19 pandemic."
  https://dph.georgia.gov/press-releases/2020-10-13/dph-urges-all-georgians-get-flu-shot

Hawaii (HI)
Hawaii State Department of Health
- The Hawaii State Department of Health (HDOH) formed a core planning team with representatives from local, state, and federal levels as well as private sector partners to develop the state's COVID-19 vaccination plan. The plan provides operational and logistical guidance for planning and coordinating a statewide COVID-19 vaccination effort to effectively request, secure, receive, store, stage, distribute, dispense and recover vaccine assets. The plan further describes the concept of operations and identified anticipated roles and responsibilities of organizations supporting this effort
  https://hawaiicovid19.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Hawaii-COVID-19-Vaccination-Plan-Draft_Executive-Summary_101620.pdf

Indiana (IN)
Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH)
- The State Health Commissioner briefed a vaccine stakeholder committee on November 13, 2020 about the status of the COVID-19 vaccine rollout. Surveys were sent to all long term care staff on November 16, 2020 to gauge willingness to receive the COVID-19 vaccine as soon as it becomes available. This is being done to prioritize distribution and access to the vaccine.
  https://www.ihca.org/resource/vaccine-survey-for-al
- ISDH released a draft plan for statewide distribution of COVID-19 vaccines on October 20, 2020. Nursing home staff are included in Phase 1-A, while nursing home residents would fall under Phase 1-B (vulnerable)
  https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/Indiana%20COVID-19%20Vaccination%20Plan_%20Interim%20Draft.pdf

Maryland (MD)
Lorien Health Services
- October 15, 2020, Lorien's CEO crafted a letter to residents and families regarding implementation of important measures to safeguard residents and employees. Lorien has made it mandatory for all employees to receive the flu vaccination and is actively encouraging all residents to obtain a flu vaccination. The letter also explains the facility's proactive installation of over 200 iWave-C technology self-cleaning, bi-polar ionization generators, for actively treating the air quality in each facility
  https://www.lorienhealth.com/application/files/3516/0285/5697/10.15.20_Family_Update.pdf

Massachusetts (MA)
Massachusetts Senior Care Organization
- Kicked off "Fight the Flu" campaign, on October 1, 2020, with goal to reach 90 percent of

nursing home staff and speak directly to those declining the vaccine. The campaign features strategies and resources for promoting influenza vaccinations within long term care facilities, including offering the shot during routine COVID testing
https://www.maseniorcare.org/member-resources/e-news-updates/mass-senior-care-kicks-fight-flu-campaign

Minnesota (MN)
Minnesota Association of Geriatrics Inspired Clinicians (MAGIC) Clinical Practice Alliance Committee (CPAC)
- Posted a new resource, "2020-2021 Influenza Protocol for Recognition, Diagnosis, Treatment and Prophylaxis for use in Skilled Nursing and Assisted Living Facilities"
https://www.minnesotageriatrics.org/uploads/1/1/8/4/118442543/2020-2021_cpac_influenza_protocol_pdf.pdf

Missouri (MO)
Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services (DHSS)
- Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services has created a *COVID-19 Vaccine Information for Vaccinators* webpage. The webpage contains the State of Missouri COVID-19 vaccination plan as of October 11, 2020, Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) vaccination information, and general vaccine information
https://health.mo.gov/living/healthcondiseases/communicable/novel-coronavirus/vaccine.php

Montana (MT)
Montana Department of Health and Human Services
- Montana developed a Vaccination Plan with submission to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for review. Montana's planning efforts are based upon CDC guidance to anticipate a phased approach due to anticipated initial limited vaccine availability. This strategic approach accounts for the overlap of work between phases and is flexible for any updated guidance at the federal level. The plan is also collaborative and includes stakeholders from various sectors of the state, including health systems and hospitals, local health departments, Tribal governments, various congregate settings and others
https://dphhs.mt.gov/Portals/85/Documents/Coronavirus/MontanaCOVID-19VaccinationPlanInterimDRAFT.pdf

New Hampshire (NH)
Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center
- Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center (DHMC) is offering drive thru flu clinics to promote the annual flu vaccine and make it easier for patients to get their shots. A number of drive-up clinics are happening throughout the month of October.
https://www.dartmouth-hitchcock.org/flu/dhmc_flu_vaccine_schedule.html

New Jersey (NJ)
State of New Jersey Department of Health
- In anticipation of the approval of a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine, the New Jersey Department of Health is working with other state, federal, and local agencies to plan for the fast and equitable distribution of a vaccine to all New Jersey communities. This webpage provides resources such as: "The 8 Things to Know about Vaccination Planning, ensuring the safety of COVID-19 Vaccines" and "Frequently Asked Questions About COVID-19 Vaccination"
https://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/topics/covid2019_vaccination.shtml

North Carolina (NC)
North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS)
- Issued press release and online resources urging residents to get vaccinated against influenza to help protect themselves, their families and those around them as the state enters flu season amid the COVID-19 pandemic
https://www.ncdhhs.gov/news/press-releases/ncdhhs-officials-urge-north-carolinians-get-vaccinated-flu-season-begins-stress
- On October 16, 2020, North Carolina submitted its COVID-19 Vaccination Plan to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. North Carolina's vaccine plan reflects five principles that guide the planning for and distribution of one or more COVID-19 vaccines in the state
https://www.ncdhhs.gov/news/press-releases/ncdhhs-submits-covid-19-vaccination-plan-cdc-0

North Carolina Institute of Medicine
- The North Carolina Institute of Medicine is convening a state COVID-19 Vaccine Advisory Committee to provide feedback to the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services on its COVID-19 vaccination plan. The Advisory Committee is comprised of stakeholders including public health experts, health care providers, advocacy organization leaders, and representatives of essential workers and at-risk populations
https://nciom.org/north-carolina-institute-of-medicine-convenes-state-covid-19-vaccine-advisory-committee

North Dakota (ND)
North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH)
- NDDoH published its COVID-19 Vaccination Plan
https://www.health.nd.gov/sites/www/files/documents/COVID%20Vaccine%20Page/Covid-19%20Mass%20Vaccination%20Plan.pdf
- On August 10, 2020, NDDoH announced that North Dakota was selected by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as one of four states to be part of a pilot project to plan for distribution of a COVID-19 vaccine. This is not a vaccine trial
https://www.health.nd.gov/news/north-dakota-selected-cdc-pilot-project-covid-19-vaccine-planning

South Dakota (SD)
South Dakota Department of Health
- On November 18, 2020, the South Dakota Department of Health published its COVID-19 Vaccination Plan. The plan includes vaccination strike teams, Points of Dispensing (PODs), and mobile vaccination units for broad access to the COVID-19 vaccine
https://doh.sd.gov/documents/COVID19/SD_COVID-19VaccinationPlan.pdf

Virginia (VA)
Virginia Department of Health (VDH)
- Posted a September 24, 2020 YouTube video for training health care providers on the use of dry ice safety and vaccine storage due to the extreme cold required to effectively store COVID-19 vaccines
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=myUsKw6KTvY&feature=youtu.be

Wyoming (WY)
Wyoming Department of Health
- Wyoming Department of Health presented their interim draft vaccination plan for the long-term care facilities and assisted living facilities in the state of Wyoming. The plan identifies critical populations and acknowledges key assumptions such as dose availability, vaccine storage and number of doses anticipated, as well as number of days of separation between doses. https://health.wyo.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Interim-Draft-WDH-COVID-19-Vaccination-Plan10-16-20-b.pdf
- Link to the Pharmacy Partners for Long Term Care Program is below. Enrolled COVID-19 vaccine providers will be able to submit vaccine orders, at no cost, through the Wyoming Immunization Registry https://health.wyo.gov/publichealth/immunization/wyoming-covid-19-vaccine-information/covidvaccineproviders

II. TELEHEALTH

Alaska (AK)
Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association
- Developed a telehealth quick start toolkit for all care settings

Arizona (AZ)
United Telehealth Corporation
- This corporation facilitated telehealth technician visits for several of the post-acute facilities to test residents (free of charge) for transfer clearance to assisted living during this pandemic. They have also been utilized by physicians and staff in skilled nursing facilities

The University of Arizona
- The Arizona Telemedicine Program is conducting virtual webinars to help providers, such as nursing homes, across the state quickly strengthen their telemedicine programs https://telemedicine.arizona.edu/
- This group created a position dedicated to coordinating telehealth visits. This person arranges a time with the provider and nurse. This helps the nurse stay on task by not having to coordinate these efforts

California (CA)
Los Angeles Jewish Home
- Student pharmacists are conducting Zoom meetings with residents to review medication regimens and to provide education to residents about their medications. The student pharmacists are also providing medication regimen review to prescribers to potentially deprescribe medications. This best practice is a win-win, including active learning for the student pharmacists and social interaction for the residents

Georgia (GA)
Office of the Governor Brian P. Kemp
- The Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, working with the Department of Community Health, has requested that Georgia Health Information Network (GaHIN) provide certain information as part of the state's COVID-19 response and re-opening planning
- It is likely that the information request will be on a continuing basis during the COVID-19 public health emergency
- The data elements requested at this time include the following: admits, discharges, transfers (ADT); death reporting; electronic lab reports (ELR); and emergency management services (EMS)
- Provided member updates on Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) privacy and other Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, and agency information https://www.gahin.org/

Hawaii (HI)
University of Hawaii, Hawaii State Rural Health Association
- A COVID-19 Project ECHO (Extension for Community Health Outcomes) education and training series is provided weekly. All long term care and assisted living facilities are invited. The series topics include: donning/doffing personal protective equipment (PPE), repurposing PPE, COVID-19 testing procedures, resident isolation, staff quarantine, and telemedicine in long term care
https://geriatrics.jabsom.hawaii.edu/ltss

Iowa (IA)
Iowa Pharmacy Association (IPA)
- The IPA Long Term Care and Senior Care Advisory Committee advises the IPA Board of Trustees and staff on issues including short cycle dispensing, geriatric therapy updates, and changing federal rules related to long term care (LTC) and senior care. The committee includes about 25 IPA members that hold differing roles across LTC practice – such as dispensing only to facilities, serving as consultants to facilities, serving as geriatric clinic-based pharmacists, etc. The group recently discussed sharing sample data-sharing agreements to sign with a LTC facility to gain access to the electronic health record (EHR) for consulting documentation. Its members endorse access to facility e-charts. Facilities have also used FaceTime/Skyping services to observe medication passes, helping to ensure these requirements still occurred when a pharmacist was not present in the facility
https://www.iarx.org

Massachusetts (MA)
Partners Healthcare
- Digital Technology to Curve COVID-19 Pandemic: Organization offers implementation guidance and policy insights relevant to the use of virtual care tools to meet the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic
    - The Virtual Visits program depicts a real time video interaction between a provider and patient
    - The Virtual Consults program depicts a real time video interaction between a referring provider and the expert teleconsultant
    - The eVisits program depicts a secure text-based exchange between a provider and patient
    https://www.nature.com/articles/s41746-020-0279-6

Michigan (MI)
Michigan Office of the Governor
- Theoria Medical x 5-Star Telemed is providing telemedicine in long term care facilities with 24-hour physician access, including on-demand behavioral health access, comprehensive assessment training for nursing using mobile equipment (remote auscultation, tele-ultrasound, 12- lead electrocardiogram (EKG) test, wireless spirometry, blood glucose, and blood pressure capability). A multi-camera device allows for wound assessment and integration of patient centered communication (PCC) with electronic health records (EHR) for interoperability
https://www.5startelemed.com/

Missouri (MI)
Show-Me ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes)
- Launched a COVID-19 ECHO. ECHO is a best-practice method for transferring appropriate specialty knowledge to non-specialist clinicians, such as primary care providers in rural areas. A multidisciplinary expert team, led by the state's Department of Health and Senior Services director and including university physicians, uses video and teleconferencing to share the latest information, answer questions, and discuss management of patient cases presented by participants
https://showmeecho.org/clinics/covid-19

Nevada (NV)
Nevada Department of Health and Human Services
- *The department is helping seniors who are hoping to avoid unnecessary hospitalizations connect with their health care providers through telehealth services. The program helps seniors understand what is covered and staff members can assist with telehealth visits*
https://www.nevada211.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/NV-CAN-Telehealth-flyer-general-ADA-3.pdf

Various Nursing Homes
- Many nursing homes have turned to the use of technology and telehealth. Attending physicians and psychologists are using telehealth for patient visits, with some using tablets attached to an IV pole to accommodate a meaningful telehealth visit between patient and doctor

New Jersey (NJ)
Exchange Physical Therapy Group
- This provider was able to implement telehealth visits quickly to ensure that patients continued to receive rehabilitation services. The practice has maintained 10 percent of its patients via telehealth, continuing to employ six out of 11 therapists at about 40 percent of their pre-COVID-19 visit volume. The practice plans to continue telehealth availability for patients who are unable to get to the clinic
https://www.exchangephysicaltherapygroup.com/blog/how-one-pt-clinic-adopted-telehealth-in-response-to-covid-19-by-webpt

New Mexico (NM)
University of New Mexico Project ECHO
- The University of New Mexico Project ECHO is offering case scenario discussions focusing on nursing staff resiliency and infection control
https://echo.unm.edu/covid-19/sessions/mqiha

New York (NY)
New York State Department of Health, LeadingAge NY
- Developed COVID-19 response recommendations for nursing homes
  - Scheduled a call-in phone conference with the medical director specifically for families to provide information on COVID-19 and to give families the ability to ask questions in real time
  - Initiated an e-mail newsletter for families with pictures and news about what the facility is doing to help keep residents busy and occupied during this time

- o Set up an automated phone call system to make mass calls to families with updates
  https://www.leadingageny.org

Ohio (OH)
Ohio Department of Health (ODH)
- Launched a telehealth line for the general public to ask questions about how to protect themselves and prepare for COVID-19 in their community. The ODH COVID-19 call center staffers operate the center from 9 AM to 8 PM daily, including weekends. Call center staff includes licensed nurses and infectious disease experts. They are available to answer questions and provide accurate information about COVID-19, its risk to the public, and the state's response
  https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/resources/covid-19-call-center/covid-19-odh-call-center

Ohio Guidestone
- The expansion of telehealth outreach during pandemic provided increased access to patients. Since the stay-at-home order, Guidestone has expanded its services throughout the state and increased access to people with substance abuse disorders. It transitioned its in-person visits to telephone contact. Monthly call volume is normally 850 calls; this jumped to 11,000 calls in March and 27,000 calls in April
  https://katu.com/features/mental-health-matters/ohio-guidestone-expands-telehealth-services-during-covid-19-pandemic-05-27-2020

Oregon (OR)
Various State Agencies/Stakeholders
- In Oregon, there are many players working to support nursing homes and the greater Oregon health care community. State actions identified include:
  - o Larger corporations have supported facilities with the implementation of telehealth practices to conduct visits whenever appropriate

Virginia (VA)
Mid-Atlantic Telehealth Resource Center
- Created and posted resources online for rapidly deploying telehealth in post-acute care and long term care settings
  https://www.matrc.org/matrc-telehealth-%20resources-for-covid-19

Our Lady of Peace Retirement Community, University of Virginia Health System (UVA)
- Upon having residents test positive for COVID-19, Our Lady of Peace Retirement Community partnered with its community academic health system, UVA, to use Project ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) to provide support and clinical consultations to the facility. Using this system, the facility accessed geriatricians, a pulmonologist, and an infection preventionist. Each morning, the facility conducts virtual rounds with a medical team comprised of a geriatrician, pulmonologist and primary care physician via ECHO to review the clinical status of COVID-19-positive residents
  https://uvahealth.com/services/telemedicine/echo

West Virginia (WV)
Stonerise Health Care Corporation

- Stonerise Healthcare Corporation owns a chain of nursing homes in West Virginia and has developed its own reporting page related to COVID-19 with scheduling tele-visits with residents for family members
  http://www.stonerisehealthcare.com/coronavirus-update

Wisconsin (WI)
Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Superior Health Quality Alliance
- Provides coordinated facilitation of tele-Infection Control Assessment and Response (ICAR) for nursing homes in counties with larger number of COVID-19 cases in partnership with the Division of Public Health, Division of Quality Assurance (State Survey Agency,) and Superior Health Quality Alliance
- Cross train surveyor staff to assist with tele-ICAR completion

III. ORGANIZATIONS AVAILABLE TO ASSIST NURSING HOMES

NATIONAL GUARD

Alabama (AL)
Alabama National Guard
- The Alabama National Guard, under the leadership of Governor Kay Ivey, will assist designated nursing homes in the state response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Specially trained and equipped National Guard teams will sanitize and disinfect nursing homes that have COVID-19 positive residents and/or employees and will train staff on the techniques of donning and doffing personal protective equipment

Arizona (AZ)
Arizona National Guard (AzNG)
- AzNG has obtained level II and level III reusable (fabric) gowns. AzNG representatives are calling nursing homes to determine need and create a priority list for distribution. In addition, AzNG has created mobile teams to provide training on how to use and maintain the gowns

Colorado (CO)
Colorado National Guard, Office of the Governor Jared Polis
- Colorado Governor Jared Polis initiated a COVID-19 Innovation Response Team with a multi-pronged response, including increased testing, tailored social-distancing measures, a reinforced health care system, and a bolstering of state epidemiological resources
- The Colorado National Guard was deployed to test residents and staff at three of the state's largest nursing homes, even though outbreaks had not been reported at the facilities
- The Strike Force Team set a goal to conduct proactive widespread asymptomatic testing for both nursing home residents and staff, to identify cases early and minimize the potential for an outbreak. The team has prioritized facilities serving the most residents, as they are at the highest risk for an outbreak
- To date, 110,690 testing kits have been distributed to 176 facilities who have indicated they just need support with supplies. Governor Polis has asked the federal government to extend the National Guard deployment past the current authorization in August to assist with these efforts

Georgia (GA)
Georgia Healthcare Facility Regulation Department
- Georgia Healthcare Facility Regulation Department worked closely with the Department of Public Health, the Georgia Health Care Association, and the National Guard to stay abreast of COVID-19 activity and its impact on centers while remaining vigilant for highest quality of care for the residents in Georgia
- Surveyors connected with long term care organizations to collect information related to COVID-19 and coordinated with the Georgia National Guard to develop a system for collection of

COVID-19 data. The data collection platform was released daily at 2 PM, replacing a previous report from the Governor's Office
https://dch.georgia.gov/divisionsoffices/healthcare-facility-regulation

Georgia National Guard, Department of Public Health, Department of Community Health
- Developed a testing strategy in response to Governor Kemp's recommendations to support broader testing and to prioritize testing of vulnerable populations and health care professionals
- Ultimately, this strategy will expand to include private or commercial labs. Approximately 200+ nursing homes have invited teams into their centers for cleaning and sanitizing, staff education, and assistance with testing
https://www.ghca.info/Files/National%20Guard%20Test%20Team%20for%20LTCF%20Process.pdf

Indiana (IN)
Indiana State Department of Health
- On November 3, 2020, an updated deployment schedule and list of resources available to nursing facilities were released by the Indiana National Guard
https://www.ihca.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/LTC-facility-NG-Deployment-1-Pager-11-3-20.pdf

Office of the Governor Eric Holcomb
- On the October 21, 2020, video broadcast to provide updates to the Indiana fight against COVID-19, Governor Holcomb and the Chief Medical Officer for the Indiana Department of Health, discuss 5 targeted steps to combat the spread of COVID-19. Among these steps is the November 1st deployment of the National Guard to assist long term care staff with the burden of COVID-19 testing in Indiana nursing homes. See video at the 20-minute mark:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KiwjtKO7yRI
- Beginning November 1, 2020, the Indiana National Guard will help nursing homes with COVID-19 testing and data entry to allow long term care staff more time to directly care for residents. Facilities currently experiencing outbreaks will receive the first priority for assistance
https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/post-acute/indiana-national-guard-to-help-combat-covid-19-in-long-term-care-facilities.html

Iowa (IA)
Office of the Governor Kim Reynolds
- TestIowa.com was launched to help officials target areas of opportunity and help them make decisions about reopening the state
- New testing sites were set up to test an additional 3,000 people a day
- First responders and medical personnel were prioritized for testing
- Iowa National Guard troops were mobilized to respond to COVID-19 outbreaks at the state's meat packing companies. Troops helped deliver testing equipment to packing plants, transported kits to labs, and helped packing plants with cleaning
- A "testing strike team" was sent to Tama County in response to an outbreak at a long term care facility. All staff at the facility were tested for COVID-19
- Daily briefings were held, state resources were activated, and equipment, personnel, technical assistance/guidance, supplies, and essential services were deployed to provide assistance in the form of traffic control, security, vaccines, transportation, and other emergency response and recovery capabilities

III. Organizations Available to Assist Nursing Homes
National Guard Continued

- The Governor's COVID-19 website included information for long term care facilities that link to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) resources
https://coronavirus.iowa.gov

Kentucky (KY)
Kentucky National Guard, Office of the Governor Andy Beshear

- As reported by local news station WLKY on November 17,2020, the Kentucky National Guard is deploying 10 Operations Support Teams for at least 30 days, consisting of up to five soldiers for non-clinical duties and relief for long term care facilities. The National Guard relieves administrative tasks to re-assign facility staff where most needed, including entry screening and temperature checks; visitation scheduling, screening and temperature checks, escorting and monitoring visits; sanitation, including cleaning high-touch surfaces and proper and safe disposal of trash and refuse; COVID-19 testing processes, including registration and records, logistics support and other approved duties; and data entry, including reporting results for point of contact antigen tests and other local, state, and federal reporting
https://www.wlky.com/article/kentucky-national-guard-members-to-help-long-term-care-facilities-as-covid-19-surges/34703399

Minnesota (MN)
Minnesota National Guard

- The Minnesota National Guard offers ongoing to support to the Minnesota Department of Health by staffing and coordinating no-barrier COVID-19 testing locations across the state. Sites are updated at the following link.
https://minnesotanationalguard.ng.mil/mnng-covid-19

Nevada (NV)
Nevada National Guard

- Partnered with the Nevada Department of Health Bureau of Health Care Quality and Compliance to visit skilled nursing facilities for spot checks on infection prevention and control (cleanliness of facility, adequate staffing, and personal protective equipment)

New Mexico (NM)
New Mexico National Guard

- The National Air Guard actively participated in the CARES Act team, allowing members to be put on orders full time to support state needs during the pandemic
https://www.nationalguard.mil/News/Article/2403656/new-mexico-air-guard-help-the-state-with-cares-act-team/Assist in decontamination of facilities where a COVID-19 infection has occurred
- Specimen collection and transport from testing sites statewide
- Staffing alternative care sites

New York (NY)
New York State Health Facilities Association

- Statewide organization providing updates on most current and authoritative information on COVID-19 relevant to facilities in New York
https://www.nyshfa-nyscal.org/advocacy-updates
- Organizing tech volunteers to assist in providing technology, data driven products to provide

resources for the COVID-19 response; over 6,500 experts have volunteered and tools have already been created
https://www.ny.gov/programs/new-york-state-covid-19-technology-swat-team

North Carolina (NC)
North Carolina Army National Guard
- The North Carolina Army National Guard supported North Carolina Emergency Operations with planning and predictive analysis. Soldiers also worked with the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services to help prepare vital, in-demand medical equipment for shipment to supply centers across the state

North Dakota (ND)
North Dakota Department of Health
- The National Guard assisted with pick-up and delivery of lab specimens and assisted with clean-up of nursing homes if needed

Puerto Rico (PR)
Puerto Rico National Guard
- Screened passengers at airports, saving the medical professionals for health care settings. Medical schools collaborated with the Puerto Rico National Guard during the screenings to allow health care workers to focus on providing care at hospitals and skilled nursing facilities

West Virginia (WV)
Office of the Governor Jim Justice
- Issued orders on April 17, 2020 for testing of all nursing home residents and workers by the West Virginia National Guard. These orders were issued before any reported nursing home outbreaks. These tests began in early April 2020 when at least one resident or staff member at a facility tested positive for COVID-19

West Virginia Department of Health
- West Virginia Department of Health State officials announced on October 21, 2020, the implementation of a new system for nursing home strike teams for COVID-19 outbreaks. When an outbreak occurs, the team will be activated through the health command phone call system. The team will be made up of National Guard members and others, including infectious disease specialists, pulmonary specialists, nursing home specialists, and other physicians. Through regionalized teams around the state, the goal is to be into outbreak nursing homes within 24-48 hours of notification. The state has used strike teams at nursing homes before; however, this time the state has partnered with other organizations, as well as local health departments, and the National Guard. The strike teams are especially needed to help small nursing homes in rural areas. The state is encouraging volunteer consult teams to participate more actively
https://www.wvpublic.org/government/2020-10-23/new-strike-team-formed-to-respond-to-coronavirus-outbreaks-in-w-va-nursing-homes

PROJECT ECHO-ASSOCIATED ACTIVITIES FOR NURSING HOMES

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)
- On September 29, 2020, AHRQ, in partnership with New Mexico's ECHO Institute in Albuquerque and the Institute for Healthcare Improvement in Boston, announced the establishment of a National Nursing Home COVID Action Network, which will provide free training and assistance with infection control to nursing homes nationwide. This work is being funded through an AHRQ contract that is funded by the Provider Relief Fund authorized under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.
https://www.ahrq.gov/news/newsroom/press-releases/covid-action-network.html

University of Hawaii Department of Geriatrics, Hawaii State Rural Health Association
- The Long term care (LTC) COVID-19 Project Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes (ECHO) series included topics such as COVID-19 testing, planning for dementia residents, symptom management, and readiness in care homes and congregate settings
https://geriatrics.jabsom.hawaii.edu/ltss

Indiana National Nursing Home COVID-19 Action Network (INNHCAN) ECHO
- INNHCAN ECHO has announced the launch of up to 120 Project ECHO sites beginning the week of November 9, 2020
https://www.ihca.org/resource/announcing-the-launch-of-indianas-nursing-home-covid-19-action-network-echo

The Richard M. Fairbanks School of Public Health ECHO Center at Indiana University Purdue University of Indianapolis
- Developed a COVID-19-specific ECHO program effective April 1, 2020. ECHO uses Zoom teleconferencing for real-time answers from subject-matter experts to questions from physician practices, produced live and at no-cost with clinical continuing medical education (CME) credits available
https://fsph.iupui.edu/doc/COVID-19-ECHO-Launch-.pdf

The Green House Project
- In partnership with Project ECHO® (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes), a video tele-mentoring platform that spreads knowledge through real-time sharing, learning, and access to subject matter experts, the COVID-19 Best Practices in Nursing Homes initiative will identify and share proven protocols and lessons learned that long term care professionals can use for preparedness, management, and treatment of COVID-19. All sessions are offered free of charge to all nursing home providers
https://www.thegreenhouseproject.org/events/covid-19-best-practices-ltc-initiative

Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences
- Updates Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes (ECHO) to keep health care providers updated as the situation changes, including the state surge plan, extensive resources and tools and State of the State COVID-19 updates every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday
https://health.okstate.edu/echo/covid-19-project-echo.html

III. Organizations Available to Assist Nursing Homes
Project Echo Continued

Office of the Governor David Ige
- Provides a COVID-19 Project ECHO education and training series. Sessions occur weekly and all long term care and assisted living facilities are invited

Virginia Department of Health (VDH)
- Virginia Project ECHO is offering a Just-in-Time COVID-19 Learning Series, covering testing, telehealth, personal protective equipment (PPE), isolation, cohorting, medical management, and vulnerable populations. Find a link to session recordings here: https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/project-echo

Show-Me ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes)
- Launched a COVID-19 ECHO. ECHO is a best-practice method for transferring appropriate specialty knowledge to non-specialist clinicians, such as primary care providers in rural areas. A multidisciplinary expert team, led by the state's Department of Health and Senior Services director and including university physicians, uses video and teleconferencing to share the latest information, answer questions, and discuss management of patient cases presented by participants
https://showmeecho.org/clinics/covid-19

University of New Mexico
- The University of New Mexico Project ECHO is offering case scenario discussions focusing on nursing staff resiliency and infection control
https://echo.unm.edu/covid-19/sessions/mqiha

Our Lady of Peace Retirement Community, University of Virginia Health System (UVA)
- Upon having residents test positive for COVID-19, Our Lady of Peace Retirement Community partnered with its community academic health system, UVA, to use Project ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) to provide support and clinical consultations to the facility. Using this system, the facility accessed geriatricians, a pulmonologist, and an infection preventionist. Each morning, the facility conducts virtual rounds with a medical team comprised of a geriatrician, pulmonologist and primary care physician via ECHO to review the clinical status of COVID-19-positive residents
https://uvahealth.com/services/telemedicine/echo

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