

COVID-19 Rapid Response Network for Nursing Homes Week 11
Theme of the Week: State and Other Re-opening Guidance
July 13 – 17, 2020

<p>Data Minute Takeaways:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look up COVID cases by jurisdiction using the interactive map on the CDC’s Coronavirus Disease 2019 Cases & Deaths in the US webpage. • This Research Letter in JAMA reported the number of U.S. prison residents who tested positive for COVID-19 was 5.5 times higher and the death rate 3 times higher than the general population. • A preliminary report in NEJM from a Phase 1 trial of a COVID-19 vaccine by Moderna and NIH on 45 healthy test subjects showed promising results by producing antibodies from two injections that were 28 days apart. • As of July 9th, there have been 200,000 confirmed or suspected cases and 35,000 deaths among nursing home residents. • The Council of State Governments has compiled COVID-19 Resources for State Leaders including an interactive map.
<p>Policy Update Takeaways:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CMS is reminding facilities that providing ombudsman access to residents is required per 42 CFR § 483.10(f)(4)(i) and per the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). • CDC has released Testing Guidelines for Nursing Homes and Interim Guidance on Testing Healthcare Personnel. • HHS announced that nursing homes will be receiving point of care diagnostic tests for both residents and staff. • In order to receive the point of care tests from CMS, you will need a Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) waiver. CMS is expediting review of CLIA waiver applications. • The National Governors Association has released Strategies For COVID-19 Response for Populations Receiving Long-Term Care.
<p>Best Practice Takeaways:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Virginia has implemented a color phased reopening plan ranging from Phase Red (active COVID-19 positive residents or positive residents within the last 14 days) to Phase Green (facilities that have progressed 14 consecutive days under Phase Yellow with no COVID-19 positives and no substantial community spread will enter Phase Green.). • Reopening factors include: Community Prevalence, Cases in the SNF, Universal Source Control, Local Hospital Capacity, Access to Testing (baseline testing), Adequate Staffing (no staffing shortages), and Adequate PPE (contingency recommendations). • Things to think about before you open: clear communication – how will you get your message out?; designate staff to be the ‘point person’ for your home; find the space – indoor and outdoor – for the visit; and set up an area for ‘visitor kits’ with instructions, PPE, and hand sanitizer. • Technology can help combat loneliness and social isolation among older adults through enhanced communication (e.g. Zoom), promotion of “life-long learning” (e.g. online education programs), and increased opportunities to remain productive (e.g. tele-mentoring). • If indoor visitations are still restricted, try outdoor visits with residents and their families! Make sure to use proper PPE, hand sanitizer, social distancing, and visitor screenings.
<p>One Good Thing Highlights:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tiffani A.: “Picking blackberries this weekend with my son!” • Erin V.: “Sunflowers are blooming!” • Joelle B. “My friend is having a baby today in NYC, both parents can attend the birth.” • Nancy K.: “I’m going to make pickles with the abundance of cucumbers from the garden.” • Anne P.: “Coffee!”