**AHCA/NCAL Statements**

**Collaborative Approach with Regulators**

[**In Response to CMS Fines (8/14)**](https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/trump-administration-has-issued-more-15-million-fines-nursing-homes-during-covid-19-pandemic):

“We appreciate the importance of maintaining strong infection control practices and welcome feedback from public health officials on how we can further improve. However, the evidence clearly shows that even the best nursing homes with the most rigorous standards cannot stop this highly contagious and invisible virus.

“Our focus should be on getting a handle on the amount of spread in the surrounding community and prioritizing nursing homes for ongoing resources. When less people in the community have COVID-19, it is less likely to end up in a nursing home. When providers have the necessary personal protective equipment, reliable testing with rapid results and staff support, they can better curb the spread.

“We must foster a more collaborative approach to addressing this once-in-a-century, global crisis. Nursing homes cannot beat this pandemic alone, and focusing on enforcement and penalties only takes precious resources away at this critical time. Providers need the support of public health officials to prioritize our residents and help facilities acquire the necessary resources.”

[**CMS Resuming Inspections (8/17):**](https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-announces-resumption-routine-inspections-all-provider-and-suppliers-issues-updated-enforcement)

“We appreciate the role of surveyors, and we want to partner with them to protect our residents and give them the best quality care. However, with cases on the rise in nursing homes due to increasing spread in surrounding communities, we are concerned about efforts to return to ‘normal.’ Many nursing homes in areas where community spread is increasing still need urgent assistance with testing, personal protective equipment, and staff support. The risk of asymptomatic carriers entering our facilities, including state surveyors, remains a top concern. We hope the state and federal governments will support testing protocols for these individuals as they travel from facility to facility, so we can protect our residents and staff. We need cooperation and a collaborative approach to addressing this global crisis.”