

Recent AHCA/NCAL Statements (9/17/20)

Talking Points for State Affiliates and Member Providers

Revisions to the FCCRA on paid leave requirements:

“Providers stand ready to adhere to this rule, but with chronic underfunding and a workforce shortage prior to the pandemic, providers need ongoing support from policymakers at every level to ensure a stable workforce through this crisis. Any further strains on our workforce impact our ability to fight this virus and protect our residents.”

Testing - Abbott point-of-care tests deliveries:

“We appreciate the federal government’s initiative in supplying these point-of-care tests to nursing homes and assisted living communities. Given the vulnerable population we serve, the ability to frequently test residents and staff and receive reliable, rapid results is paramount. Access to testing means that long term care providers can better identify who has the virus and make tactical decisions to protect residents and staff. The amount of time it is taking to receive PCR test results is hurting the ability of long term facilities to fight the virus. We look forward to learning more about these shipments and working with the Administration, especially as nursing homes seek to comply with new federal testing requirements.”

Testing – reports of false positives with POC antigen tests:

“After members reported several incidents of potential false positives with the point-of-care tests nursing homes received from the federal government, LeadingAge and AHCA surveyed members to investigate the scope of this issue. Our findings indicate that the rate of false positives isn’t out of line with expectation when conducting this massive amount of testing. For now, we recommend that members continue to use the antigen machines and test kits. But, we will continue pressing manufactures – BD and Quidel –to investigate to confirm that there are no significant problems, including in cases where a single nursing home has a cluster of false positive results. We also call on HHS to provide further clarity to providers on how to handle false positives from a patient, reporting and financial aid perspective.”

CMS Rescinding the MFAR rule:

“We appreciate CMS listening to the input from long term care providers and recognizing the detrimental impact this proposal would have had on the vulnerable residents in our facilities.”