

REMINDER! MONTHLY SHOC CALL IS TUESDAY, MAY 3. SEE DETAILS BELOW.



GET READY TO CELEBRATE: [Planning Guide](#), [More](#)

Colorful decorations make everything more festive and will help to spread joy in your center during NSNCW and beyond. Our exclusive **posters, balloons, and banners** feature this year's special theme and graphics.

FRIDAY ROUNDUP APRIL 29, 2022

STATE UPDATE

Gov. Carney Extends Public Health Emergency Order

Governor Carney on 4/28/2022 extended the Public Health Emergency Order for another 30 days. The extension allows the State of Delaware and medical providers to continue COVID-19 vaccination and testing programs, enables continued staffing flexibility at hospitals and long-term care facilities and maintains the State of Delaware's eligibility for low-income Delawareans to continue receiving enhanced federal food benefit. Under Delaware law, Public Health declarations must be renewed every 30 days.

Public Health Emergency extension (4/28/2022):

[Second-Extension-of-Public-Health-Emergency-04.28.2022.pdf \(delaware.gov\)](#)

TOMORROW 4/30, 10 am – 2 pm: DEA National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day in Delaware

The medications to be disposed of at the Take-Back Day locations must be in a container such as a pill bottle, box, blister pack, or zipped plastic bag, with personal information removed. Liquid medications must be in their original containers. Besides medications, vape pens and e-cigarettes will be collected if the batteries are removed.

[Locations in Delaware are listed here.](#) Shipley Manor, 2723 Shipley Rd., Wilmington, is one of the participating locations.

COVID-19 Memorial Ceremony May 3 – New Detail

Flier is attached. This is similar to info Cheryl shared previously. But there is now a website for the memorial.

A COVID-19 Remembrance Memorial Ceremony will be held on Tuesday, May 3, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. on the Jesse Cooper Building's front lawn. This special event is presented by Lieutenant Governor Bethany Hall-Long's office and DPH, in partnership with COVID Survivors for Change and Yellow Heart Memorial. You are invited to join us in remembering those lost to, living with, and affected by COVID-19 – which includes Delaware's health care and long-term care workforce.

The ceremony will include the unveiling of a tree being planted on the Cooper Building's front lawn. We hope that if you have the opportunity to visit, you will see it as a place of peace that you can come to when you feel overwhelmed, or just need a minute to breathe.

NEW DETAIL: The Governor and Lt. Governor will also be unveiling a COVID-19 Memorial website, which is already live at de.gov/covidmemorial. On this website are options to submit a name:

- In remembrance of someone who has passed away from COVID-19
- To recognize someone living with long-haul symptoms of COVID-19
- Lift up an individual for their service during COVID-19. This could be state employees, someone in health care, long-term care, education, essential services, or other front-line areas.

As many names as possible that are pre-submitted to the website will be displayed during the ceremony.

Regarding Recent Request From Ombudsman For Access to Information

The answer to the question is here: <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-45/subtitle-B/chapter-XIII/subchapter-C/part-1324/subpart-A#1324.11> See section (e)(2)(i)-(iii).

Procedures for access. Policies and procedures regarding timely access to facilities, residents, and appropriate records (regardless of format and including, upon request, copies of such records) by the Ombudsman and representatives of the Office must include, but not be limited to:

- (i) Access to enter all long-term care facilities at any time during a facility's regular business hours or regular visiting hours, and at any other time when access may be required by the circumstances to be investigated;
- (ii) Access to all residents to perform the functions and duties set forth in [§§ 1324.13](#) and [1324.19](#);
- (iii) Access to the name and contact information of the resident representative, if any, where needed to perform the functions and duties set forth in [§§ 1324.13](#) and [1324.19](#);

However, though the Office has the authority – it is appropriate to ask the resident to OK that the facility share the family contact information with the Ombudsman – in case the resident is opposed to sharing any of this information. There should be a form letter from the Office of Ombudsman asking the resident to sign off, for the facility to release the contact information.

New Process for Ordering Alinity Test Kits

From Donna Doyle, DPH:

Below is a new process to request Alinity Test Kits. We highly recommend placing an order 1 week in advance of your testing. When you are ready to place another order, please review and provide the following information to salesupport@curative.com:

- Facility Name:
- Testing Site Name:
- Facility Address:
- Attention To:
- Number of Employees Testing:
- Number of [insert applicable] Residents or Students Testing:
- Frequency of testing:
- Number of each box size needed:

- When is your next test date:
- How many kits do you have on hand:
-

Sales Support is available Monday through Friday from 6:00AM- 5:00PM PST, 9:00AM- 8:00 PM EST via phone at 888-702-9042 - select Option 3.

You can also email directly: salesupport@curative.com.

CMS NEWS

Due to CMS on FY 2023 SNF Proposed Payment Rule by June 10

[Related from Modern Healthcare: CMS Proposes Pay Decrease for Nursing Homes](#)

On April 11, CMS released the proposed rule, [FY 2023 Skilled Nursing Facility \(SNFs\) Prospective Payment System Rate Update and Quality Reporting Requirements \(CMS-1765\)](#). Due to the proposed parity adjustment, CMS estimates that the net market basket update would decrease Medicare SNF payments by approximately \$320 million.

We are asking members to submit a comment letter(s) to CMS, which can easily be done through our system by [clicking here](#). You are encouraged to personalize your letters and emphasize the impact of the COVID-19 on your organization and your organization's ability to continue to provide high quality care to Medicare Part A beneficiaries.

COVID-19 has significantly impacted the health and safety of SNF residents and staff, but we stand ready to work with CMS to help assure the SNF Medicare Part A PPS PDPM payment model continues to be implemented in a manner that is rational and that assures that residents receive the highest level of quality care.

Below are guidelines to help you compose your letter:

- In your letter you must reference the CMS SNF Proposed Rule – **FY 2023 Skilled Nursing Facility (SNFs) Prospective Payment System Rate Update and Quality Reporting Requirements (CMS-1765)**, **an easy way to do that is to copy and paste this into the subject line of the form**. As you are preparing your comment, be sure to keep the focus on the beneficiaries -- your patients and residents -- rather than on your business or operational results.
- Ask for the parity adjustment to be phased-in.
- Explain from your own perspective how a reduction will impact patient care.
- Explain the impacts of the workforce shortage; include details on how your residents are impacted.
- The more personalized you can make your comment, the better. Use your own circumstances and your own examples to drive home your message.

The comment deadline is June 10, 2022, 5PM EST. Submitting your comment is easy, [CLICK HERE](#) to send your comment today!

Questions? AHCA/NCAL hosted a member webinar on tips for drafting and submitting your comments on the [FY 2023 SNF Proposed Payment Rule](#). Recording is [now available](#).

Thank you for taking the time to send a comment letter to CMS. Together, we are making a difference in quality care!



Submit
Comments to CMS

Tell CMS how a proposed cut to nursing homes' Medicare rates in FY 2023 would be detrimental to your residents, colleagues, and long term care organization.

WRITE TODAY



DHCFA MEMBER ZOOM MONDAY, may @, 3-4 pm

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6627149379> Meeting ID 662 714 9379

OR Phone: 646-558-8656

Associate member Guest: MaryAlice St. Clair, Halosil



SHOC CALLS NOW MONTHLY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Tuesday, MAY 3, 11 am -12 pm

This call is with Director of Health Care Quality and representatives of Division of Public Health.

Please send questions in advance to cheiks@dhcfa.org

Join from the meeting link

<https://stateofdelaware.webex.com/stateofdelaware/j.php?MTID=mfad1bf60fcc3894055e6c65d64d698dd>

Join by meeting number

- Meeting number (access code): 1738 94 4344
- Meeting password: vfA3Xizv69S

Join by phone: +1-202-860-2110 United States Toll (Washington D.C.)

RECORDING from the April 5 Call: [DHCQ/SHOC-20220405 1502-1](#) Password: qTA3pcE3C

AHCA NEWS

2022-2023 AHCA/NCAL Election and Solicitation for Candidates, Deadline May 6

AHCA is seeking candidates for Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary/Treasurer, four At-Large seats for 2022 and three At-Large seats for 2023. There are one-year terms.

NCAL is seeking candidates for Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary/Treasurer, and seven At-Large seats. These are also elected on an annual basis.

Elections will take place at the October Annual Convention in Nashville. All candidacy materials must be submitted electronically by May 6. For AHCA questions or to submit candidacy materials, please contact Christy Herle at cherle@ahca.org or 202-898-2839. For NCAL questions or to submit candidacy materials, please contact Katherine Preede at kpreede@ncal.org or 202-898-2843

GERO Nurse Prep on Sale Through May 31!
Save \$200 with code QUALITYRN22

The [Gero Nurse Prep course](#) is specifically designed for registered nurses working in long term care. This curriculum provides comprehensive online training that leads to [board certification in gerontological nursing](#) by the [American Nurses Credentialing Center](#) (ANCC) for RNs.

Here are a few key points about the program:

- Nursing facilities with ANCC Board certified RNs get better measurable outcomes.
- Assisted living facilities likely will experience similar improvements given the many similarities to nursing homes.
- The course is available 24/7 and RNs have a full year to complete the curriculum and earn 30 quality nursing contact hours.
- RNs who complete Gero Nurse Prep show an average 24 percent increase between their pre- and post-course test scores – significantly boosting their gerontological nursing knowledge.
- Gero Nurse Prep grads who choose to sit for the ANCC gerontological nursing certification exam have a pass rate of 95% on their first try.
- Smarter RNs have more confidence, prestige, and respect. RNs who pass the ANCC exam can also use ANCC's GERO-BC™ credential after their RN credential.

Watch this [video](#) or visit the website at geronurseprep.com to learn more about this online program designed to help RNs increase their geriatric nursing skills and to pass the ANCC exam. Don't forget to use the **QUALITYRN22** promo code when you register by May 31 to save \$200 off the regular \$790 Gero Nurse Prep registration fee.

MEMBER NEWS



Lofland Park 1992-2022

House Majority Leader Danny Short presents NHA Tawnya Dennis with a proclamation in recognition of the anniversary



Staff joined the celebration, including those who have been there the entire 30 years! WMDT/47ABC covered the ceremonies: www.wmdt.com/2022/04/lofland-story/

Lon Kieffer Named Executive Director of Milford Wellness Center, Karen Hurst Administrator at Polaris Healthcare

Story in the Cape Gazette: [New Leadership Named for Milford Wellness, Polaris Healthcare](#)

Workforce

Did You Respond to the Temporary Nurse Assistant Survey?

If so, thanks. If not, this takes less than one minute to answer.

- Are you using TNAs?
- If yes, how many?

This is to help DHCFA work toward keeping the waiver in place as long as possible and getting them credit for time on job as they complete their CNA training.

Email tmorris@dhcfa.org your answers or [click here](#).

Links to Nationwide Compacts

[Compact Nursing States List 2022 | Licensure Map \(nurse.org\)](#)

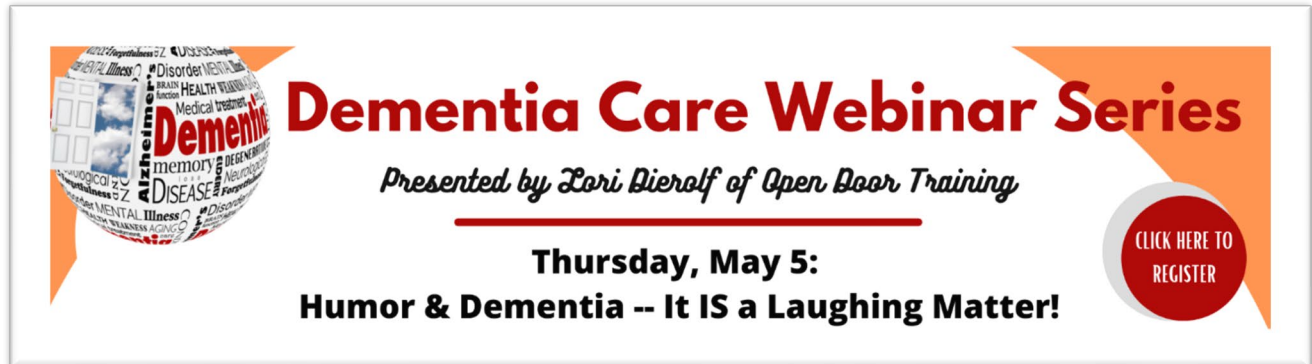
[APRN Compact | NCSBN](#)

<https://ptcompact.org/ptc-states>

Upcoming DEMA Courses

<https://dema.delaware.gov/training/dema/index.shtml?dc=demaTrainingCalendar>

- MGT-452 Physical and Cybersecurity for Critical Infrastructure, May 25
- Tornado Awareness, June 7 [Details Here](#)
- Hurricane Awareness, June 8 [Details Here](#)
- AWR-209V Working With the Media, Virtual, June 15-16 [Details Here](#)



Dementia Care Webinar Series
 Presented by *Lori Bierolf of Open Door Training*
Thursday, May 5:
Humor & Dementia -- It IS a Laughing Matter!

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

LAST IN SERIES. Registration form attached.

QLARANT Training/Office Hours for April and May

IPRO QIN-QIO Resource Library <https://qi-library.ipro.org/>

One-hour webinars, Thursday, 12-12:30 pm *Note: No CEs offered*

- Small Talks: Heart Failure – Patient Self-management Supports Better Outcomes
[Thursday, April 21](#) and [Thursday, April 28](#)
- Small Talks: Opioid Use Disorder & Related Behaviors: Supporting Patients & Each Other
[Thursday, May 5](#) and [Thursday, May 11](#)

Check-in with the QIO – Office Hours, [May 19](#), [June 23](#), 12-12:30 PM

A monthly half-hour zoom session to follow up on recent Small Talks, explore new intervention(s), ask questions, and connect with peers. These 30-minute sessions do not require registration.

TESTING REQUIREMENTS

Attached: QSO-20-38 NH REVISED and QSO-20-39-NH REVISED

DPH updated its COVID-19 Testing Guidance based on CMS’s revised guidance. The guidance is attached or you can download here: [DPH-LTC-COVID-19-Testing-Guidance-3.8.22.pdf](#) (delaware.gov)

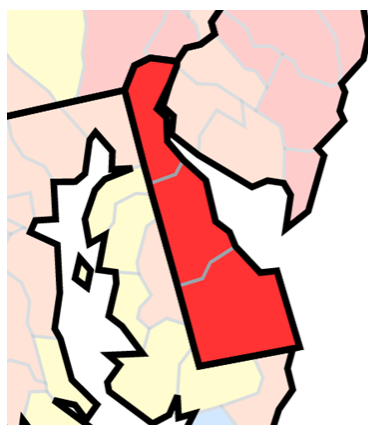
“Up to Date” means a person has received all recommended COVID-19 vaccines, including any booster dose(s) when eligible. Current recommendations can be found at: [Stay Up to Date with Your Vaccines | CDC](#)

Routine testing for staff who are up to date on all recommended COVID-19 vaccination doses is no longer required.

Using information posted on <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>, the Delaware counties' **level of community transmission** as of **April 25, 2022** are listed in the table below:

County	Current Level of Community Transmission based on CDC COVID-19 Integrated County View	Minimum Frequency of Routine Testing for Staff Who Are Not Up To Date With All Recommended COVID-19 Vaccine Doses
Kent County, DE	High	Twice a week
New Castle County, DE	High	Twice a week
Sussex County, DE	High	Twice a week

The metrics used for routine testing of staff who are not “up to date” on COVID-19 vaccination are based on **level of community transmission in each county**. This is not to be confused with the CDC’s [community level](#) data which does not apply for LTC routine testing!

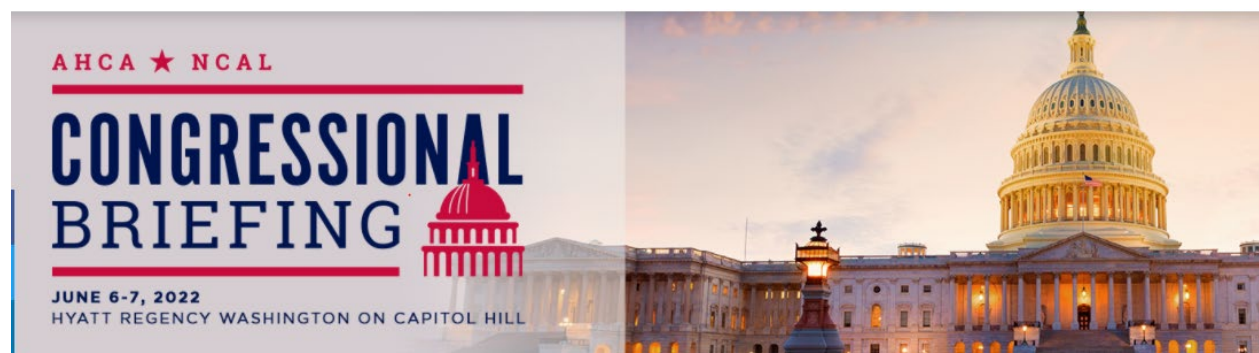


Even through our levels of community transmission have decreased since this was sent, per the CMS memo, the facility should continue testing staff at the higher frequency level until the level of community transmission has remained at the lower activity level for at least two weeks before reducing testing frequency.

The UPDATED testing guidance for Delaware is posted here: <https://coronavirus.delaware.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/177/2022/03/DPH-LTC-COVID-19-Testing-Guidance-3.8.22.pdf>

[website](#)

Facilities that wish to continue testing their staff at a higher frequency are permitted to do so using Curative tests up to once per week per staff, POC tests or their own testing resources.



June 6-7 at the Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill

In order to advocate for change, please consider attending this year’s Congressional Briefing.

[Register for the Congressional Briefing HERE](#)

SUGGESTIONS FOR SURVEY AWARENESS in BOTH SNF and ALF ENVIRONMENTS

- Verification of education provided to staff who refused vaccine.
- Surveyors' significant review of vaccine data.
- Verification of screening of staff and visitors.
- Checking to see if someone was working during the time, they were positive.
- Checking to see if someone was working during the time, they were unvaccinated.
- Testing frequency as required by the state.
- Copies of vaccination cards.
- Proof of required dementia training.
- Boosters are given to residents.
- Requirements for TB and immunizations.
- All staff fit tested for N95 masks
- Observation of proper mask wearing (masks must cover nose and mouth).
- Completeness of resident service agreements.

Flu Update

[MMWR Weekly No 16](#)

- Vaccination coverage with selected vaccines and exemption rates among children in kindergarten – United States 2020-2021 school year
- Hospitalizations of children aged 5-11 years with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19

There have been 1,708 laboratory confirmed cases of influenza in Delaware so far this season.

Location	This Week	2021-2022 Season
Statewide	251	1,708
New Castle	86	793
Kent	79	371
Sussex	79	544
Hospitalizations	20	115
Deaths	1	2

Weekly Emerging Infectious Disease Report - attached

Of particular interest:

- Combination vaccine shows promise in phase one trial for COVID-19 and flu prophylaxis



June 6-7 at the Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill

[Click here to register](#)