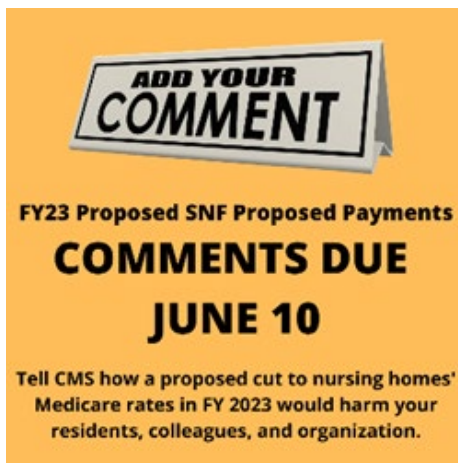


## FRIDAY ROUNDUP MAY 13, 2022

### MESSAGE FROM AHCA.NCAL CEO MARK PARKINSON



As you know, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued the FY 2023 [SNF Proposed Payment Rule](#) last month. The proposed rule provides for a net market basket increase for SNFs of 3.9 percent beginning October 1, 2022. It also includes a proposed parity adjustment of 4.6 percent. (This parity adjustment is a 4.6 percent cut.)

**We need your help submitting comments to CMS on the proposed payment rule.**

It's easy and takes only a few minutes to provide the requested contact information and follow the suggested points to create an email submission through [AHCA/NCAL's voter voice portal](#). Key messages include:

- Talk about your facility, who you take care of (the types of patients), and why you do it.
- Ask for the parity adjustment to be phased-in over 3 years. This is critical to emphasize up-front in the comments.
- Explain your reasons for requesting the phase-in.
  - Explain from your own perspective how a reduction will impact patient care.
  - Explain the impact 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.

If you submit your comment directly to Regulations.gov, please email [AHCA/NCAL](#) so we can track how many comments have been submitted. Please also feel free to reach out with any questions, and be sure to view the [recent AHCA/NCAL webinar](#) on submitting comments to CMS for the payment rule.

**Deadline for Comments on FY 2023 SNF Proposed Payment Rule is June 10 at 5 pm.**

Thank you for everything you do. I am certain that with a strong effort, we can continue to improve lives and deliver solutions for quality care.

Sincerely,



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.

**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

## **Highmark Health Options Virtual Provider Forum, Tuesday, May 17, 9-11 am**

Provider Relations hosts scheduled provider forums throughout the year. These forums give HHO participating providers the opportunity to meet and discuss topics that are important to our provider community.

**All provider team members who influence the clinical quality of your organization are welcome to join, such as clinicians or family practice pediatricians, nurses, office managers, etc. At the upcoming sessions, providers will learn more about clinical quality of care and how these processes can help improve patient outcomes.**

The presentation will provide insights in the following areas:

- Critical incidents
- Quality of care
- HEDIS and data importance
- Clinical quality feedback loop
- Tips to improve health care measures and much more!
- In addition, there will be time for Q&A and discussion.

## Registration

To register for a session visit [hho.fyi/may-forum](https://hho.fyi/may-forum).



### **DHCFA MEMBER ZOOM MONDAY, MAY 16, 3-4 pm**

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

OR Phone: 646-558-8656

Slides from Monday's meeting with MaryAlice St. Claire at Halosil are attached.



### **SHOC CALLS NOW MONTHLY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

**Tuesday, JUNE 7, 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](mailto: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 May 3 Call:** Link: [DHCQ/SHOC-20220503 1502-1](#) Password: EbXMC8bF

---

## **AHCA NEWS**

### **AHCA's Dr. Gifford Video to Promote Boosters**



[https://youtu.be/qxMHP\\_30Xyg](https://youtu.be/qxMHP_30Xyg)

While nearly 90% of nursing home staff have received their primary dose, a little less than half have received their COVID booster as of mid-April. Dr. Gifford encourages staff to ensure they have the highest

level of protection and reduce the chances of passing the virus onto family, friends, colleagues, and most importantly, vulnerable long term care residents.

LTC providers are encouraged to share this video message with their employees and colleagues via [YouTube](#), or [download the video file](#) directly to circulate through your organization's own internal channels.

The video is part of AHCA/NCAL's ongoing #GetVaccinated campaign. Learn more at [getvaccinated.us](https://getvaccinated.us).

## **2023 AHCA/NCAL National Quality Award Program Year Opens**

The AHCA/NCAL National Quality Award Program is excited to announce that the **2023 application year** is now open. For the first time, application packets are available three months earlier than previous years so that skilled nursing care centers and assisted living communities can begin to prepare.

In 2022, Delaware had one winner – ProMedica Wilmington received the Bronze Award. Administrator Leslie Johnson accepted the award at the AHCA/NCAL Convention in October.

We encourage members to take advantage of this additional time to download application packets and materials and to begin planning, reviewing and gathering relevant data.

## **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.

Watch this [video](#) or visit the website at [geronurseprep.com](https://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.

## **STATE NEWS**

### **Dr. Rattay Leaving DPH, Effective June 30**

Dr. Karyl Rattay is announcing that she will be leaving her role as Director of the Delaware Division of Public Health (DPH) effective June 30, 2022. Dr. Rattay assumed her position in 2009, during the H1N1 influenza pandemic, and is the nation's longest serving Public Health Director.

As Delaware's State Health Official, Dr. Rattay leads nearly 1,000 employees who promote health, reduce health inequities, and protect Delawareans from disease, environmental hazards, and public health emergencies.

Rattay said leading the state through the COVID-19 pandemic over the last two years – the greatest public health crisis in a century – has tested those in public health departments professionally and personally. She indicated that while she is not ready to announce her next role, she is excited about the new opportunities in front of her and believes this is a good time to transition the Division to its next leader.

## Workforce



### **Delaware Skills Center LPN Job Fair**

The Delaware Skills Center is inviting providers to meet with its 35 LPN students at a June 16 Job Fair in New Castle, 12:30 – 2 pm. The students are scheduled to complete their coursework in June and take the NCLEX-PN in July.

Contact Jane Altshuler at [jane.altshuler@ncctv.k12.de.us](mailto:jane.altshuler@ncctv.k12.de.us) by June 9 for more information or to reserve your table.

This flyer is attached.

## **Links to Nationwide Compacts**

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

[APRN Compact | NCSBN](#)

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

## **QLARANT Training/Office Hours for May and June**

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

**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**

**DPH COVID-19 Testing Guidance based on CMS’s revised guidance. [DPH-LTC-COVID-19-Testing-Guidance-3.8.22.pdf](#) (delaware.gov)**

**PLEASE NOTE: As per page 8 of the DPH guidance document linked above, residents CAN be tested via POC.**

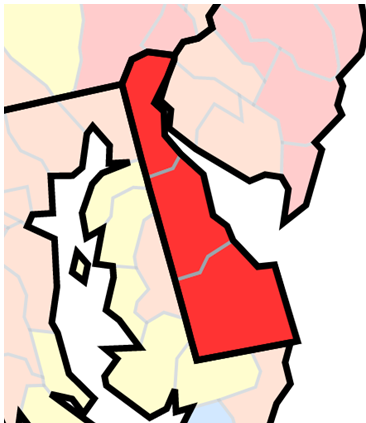
**“Up to Date” means a person has received all recommended COVID-19 vaccines, including any booster dose(s) when eligible. Current recommendations can be found at: [Stay Up to Date with Your Vaccines | CDC](#)**

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 **May 9, 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 <b>Staff Who Are Not Up To Date With All Recommended COVID-19 Vaccine Doses</b> |
|-----------------------|--|--|
| Kent County, DE       | <b>High</b>  | Twice a week   |
| New Castle County, DE | <b>High</b>  | Twice a week   |
| Sussex County, DE     | <b>High</b>  | 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!



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.pdfwebsite>

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.

## **SUGGESTIONS FOR SURVEY AWARENESS in BOTH SNF and ALF ENVIRONMENTS**

COVID vaccination:

- Verification of education provided to staff who refused vaccine.
- For those staff who have medical or religious exemptions, a review of documentation to ensure it is in place and corresponds to reported numbers.
- 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
- Verification of offering vaccine to residents, and if needed declination forms

Other Vaccination requirements:

- Influenza and Pneumococcal records



Other:

- Proof of required dementia training.
- Documentation for use of psychotropic medication
- Review of ADL Care
- Boosters are given to residents.
- Requirements for TB and immunizations.
- All staff fit tested for N95 masks
- Bed Hold Policies and Return to Facility
- Observation of proper mask wearing (masks must cover nose and mouth).
- Completeness of resident service agreements.
- Observation of staff encouraging residents to wear masks appropriately
- PASSAR procedures and documentation
- Review of appropriate discharge procedures including notification and time limits
- Kitchen:
  - Cleanliness of screen over Stove
  - Fly traps
  - Accessibility of kitchen sink
  - Avoiding using any moisture trapping materials in food storage racks

## Flu Update

### [Weekly Flu Report Week 17](#)

#### **Delaware (Widespread)**

There have been 2,041 laboratory confirmed cases of influenza in Delaware so far this season.

| Location                | This Week | 2021-2022 Season |
|-------------------------|-----------|------------------|
| Statewide               | 110       | 2,041            |
| New Castle              | 57        | 965              |
| Kent                    | 28        | 458              |
| Sussex                  | 25        | 618              |
| <b>Hospitalizations</b> | <b>1</b>  | <b>120</b>       |
| <b>Deaths</b>           | <b>0</b>  | <b>2</b>         |

## MMWR Weekly ([No 18](#))

- Effectiveness of a COVID-19 additional primary or booster dose in preventing SARS-CoV-2 infection among nursing home residents

## Weekly Emerging Infectious Disease Report - attached

Of particular interest:

- Nebraska wastewater report provides early indications of COVID-19 case trends and variants

## [Community](#)

### 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](#)

EXCLUSIVE OFFER  
for AHCA/NCAL Members at Springer Publishing!

**30% OFF** on Long Term  
Care and Assisted  
Living Resources  
**+ FREE SHIPPING!**

**AHCA.** **NCAL.**  
AMERICAN HEALTH CARE ASSOCIATION NATIONAL CENTER FOR ASSISTED LIVING

**SPRINGER PUBLISHING**  
Proudly serving the health care and helping professions

Use Code **AHCANCAL30**  
[www.springerpub.com/ahca](http://www.springerpub.com/ahca)

Exclusive Savings on Long Term Care and Assisted Living Resources.

AHCA Publications has partnered with **Springer Publishing** to bring savings to AHCA/NCAL members and bookstore customers. Explore **digital access** and **free chapter review options** on many titles, save **30%** on all books, and enjoy **free ground shipping!**

[www.springerpub.com/ahca](http://www.springerpub.com/ahca) Use Code AHCANCAL30