



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Department of Health Care Finance
441 4th Street NW, Suite 900S
Washington, DC 20001

Department of Health Care Finance Informational Bulletin

DATE: March 12, 2020
FROM: Ieisha Gray
Director, Long Term Care Administration
SUBJECT: **COVID-19 Update for Long Term Care Providers**

The purpose of this informational bulletin is to inform all DC Medicaid-enrolled long-term care providers guidance on actions and response to the coronavirus (COVID-19). The Department of Health (DC Health) and the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (HSEMA) are responsible for coordinating the District's emergency response planning for the potential impacts of COVID-19. For general information and ongoing updates, the <https://coronavirus.dc.gov/> webpage is a reliable source for information.

In addition, CMS has provided guidance specific to home health providers which is available on their website at <https://www.cms.gov/medicareprovider-enrollment-and-certificationsurvey/certificationgeninfopolicy-and/guidance-infection-control-and-prevention-concerning-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-home-health>.

While the health and safety of our beneficiaries is always our primary objective, it is critically important to protect the health of our workforce, particularly those serving our most vulnerable and at-risk populations. As with any public crisis, it is DHCF's expectation that provider agencies adhere to, and update as necessary, their emergency preparedness protocols.

LTCA will soon issue further guidance on the ability to use telehealth and/or attestations to ensure continued eligibility during this time.

In the meantime, we encourage all providers to remind their staff to follow best practices established by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to protect themselves and our beneficiaries. These guidelines include:

- Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds multiple times a day. An alcohol-based hand sanitizer can be used if soap and water are not available
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Stay home when feeling sick
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces

As always, your commitment to the care and wellbeing of our beneficiaries is appreciated. DHCF will continue to update our partners as information is available.