

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
COVID-19 Call with Nurses
Moderator: Alina Czekai
May 28, 2020
3:00 p.m. ET

OPERATOR: This is Conference # 2988422.

Alina Czekai: Good afternoon. Thank you for joining our May 28th CMS COVID-19 call with nurses. This is Alina Czekai leading stakeholder engagement on COVID-19 in the office of CMS Administrator, Seema Verma.

I'd first like to turn it over to Jean Moody-Williams, Acting Director at the Center for Clinical Standards and Quality, for an update on the agency's latest guidance in response to COVID-19. Jean?

Jean Moody-Williams: Thank you so much and I want to thank you all for joining. And we hope – we want to hope that you've had a great nursing month as we come to the end of the month here.

And just to provide a few highlights and kind of really reminders, our speaker was not able to make it today. So, we are not able to have a speaker on the call. But I want to kind of give you a heads-up to those of you on the line, at the conclusion of my remarks, we will open up the line for questions as well as if you have any best practices that you would like to share with your fellow nursing community.

So, just one thing to note that we are starting a series of infection control series for training for – particularly for nursing homes. And so, those of you that are working in nursing homes may find this useful as well as those who are working in other types of facilities. And this will happen on Thursdays of each week for the next eight weeks. And this – it's going to be sponsored by our Quality Improvement Organizations. And if you need more information, you can go to their website at the qioprogram.org, again qioprogram.org

As a reminder as well, we are starting to get data in on NHSN. For those that are reporting for nursing home COVID-19 data, we have data for the next – that is coming for this week. We have sent out kind of alert notices for the few facilities that have yet to start reporting. So, we're asking everyone to please get that in. And then, we will be publicly reporting the data at some point in the near future once we have the opportunity to analyze it and post it for public review.

There are number of things going on at the HHS level. One of the things that's been really important about these calls is that we continue to get your feedback on what's needed in the community. We are able to communicate that to those that have the ability to address in HHS or in FEMA, as for example, the HHS has recently launched with their calling Project America Strong.

And here, they are initiating shipments of reusable cloth face coverings to – in this case to outpatient dialysis facilities. And this is so that staff can have them and they can use when PPE is not required, when they're coming to work, going to work, et cetera. We've also been able to take care of some supply needs that have come about. So, we encourage you to continue to let us here from in those things that are needed in your communities.

With that, I would like to open the lines for questions or for any best practices that you would like to share. And so, I will turn it to the operator.

Operator: To ask a question via the telephone, please press star one. If you would like to withdraw your question, please press the pound key.

Again, if you would like to ask a question, please press star then the number one on your telephone keypad.

There are no questions at this time, please continue.

Jean Moody-Williams: OK. Again, thank you and we will – we're going to be changing the cadence of these calls, and we will be sure to have guest speakers lined up for you during the next call. And Alina I'll turn it to you.

Alina Czekai: Great. Thanks, Jean. And thanks everyone for joining our call today. Hopefully give you all a bit of time back in your schedules. And we hope that you'll join us for our CMS COVID-19 office hours next Tuesday, June 2nd at 5:00 p.m. Eastern for technical Q&A with our CMS Subject Matter Experts. And in the meantime, you can continue to direct your questions to our COVID mailbox which is covid-19@cms.hhs.gov.

Again, we appreciate all that you are doing for patients and their families around the country as we address COVID-19 as a nation. This concludes today's call. Have a great rest of your day.

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