**CAHF Member Communication – Friday, March 20, 2020**

CAHF wants to provide some clarification regarding the latest All Facilities Letters (AFL 25-20 and AFL 25.1-20 which supersedes it) from CDPH advising skilled nursing facilities to prepare to accept patients with a positive diagnosis of COVID-19, the coronavirus.

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/Pages/LNCAFL.aspx>While CAHF recognizes the reality of a possible surge of coronavirus patients in the future, the association is not in support of any immediate plans to transfer positive COVID-19 patients from the hospital to skilled nursing facilities, especially given the fatality rate in older individuals and people with serious and chronic health conditions – the very people we serve.

Most of our members are struggling to obtain personal protective equipment, and without proper protection, any introduction of new patients with the corona virus would compromise resident and employee safety.

We have urged the state to look at alternate care sites including shuttered healthcare facilities that can be brought back into service to treat patients in the event of a surge of cases.

As the pandemic continues here is some future guidance on admission of prior COVID-19 positive or suspect patients and PPE needs.

**ADMISSION**

* Incoming resident should be cleared with two Serial Negative Tests for SARS-CoV-2, drawn at least 24 hours apart. You are able to discontinue Transmission Based Precautions, OR
* One Serial Negative Test for SARS-CoV-2 AND no fever for 72-hours without the use of fever reducing medications. Facility will need to 1) Monitor for fever & respiratory symptoms. 2) Put in single room, when possible. 3) Limit contact with other residents until new information from CDC becomes available. OR
* 10 days after admission AND no fever for 72-hours without the use of fever reducing medications. Need to be able to continue Transmission Based Precautions at the receiving facility.

**PPE GUIDANCE**

* Secure all inventory under lock and key, explore other sources for PPE (dentists, contractors)
* Fill out and email resource request to the county (These requests are being filled now)
* Conserve your PPE and follow the guidelines from CDC which includes suggestions on alternatives if you can’t get PPE.

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