

# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Commissioner



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HEALTHCARE QUALITY AND SAFETY BRANCH

### BLAST FAX 2020-05

TO: All Facilities

FROM: Donna Ortelle, R.N., M.S.N. <sup>DO</sup>  
Section Chief  
Facility Licensing and Investigations Section

DATE: March 5, 2020

SUBJECT: COVID 19 and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Guidance

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Dear Medical Care Provider:

As the state prepares for the emergence of community spread of COVID 19 we would like to share and highlight several Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Guidance documents available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html> and provide suggestions on the steps you can take to minimize the impact of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak in Connecticut. *The CDC is the best and most updated information source for COVID -19.*

Please refer to the CDC Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) webpage and a page titled: **Preparing for Community Transmission of COVID-19 in the United States and Steps Healthcare Facilities Can Take Now to Prepare for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).**

DPH currently recommends that providers take an inventory of their PPE supplies, evaluate current usage, and ensure that staff are using the PPE properly, for example an isolation gown is not needed when giving a patient a bed bath.

As many PPE items, specifically N95 respirators are no longer available through the healthcare supply chain it is imperative that you implement conservation strategies. Please refer to the CDC Guidance titled: **Strategies**



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**for Optimizing the Supply of N95 Respirators.** DPH recommends that you ensure you staff understands when to use PPE, please refer to CDC webpage **Healthcare Supply of Personal Protective Equipment.** On this page you will also find a tab labeled **Checklist for Healthcare Facilities.** The page provides information on the following strategies for patient care: **Conventional Capacity, Contingency Capacity,** and **Crisis/Alternate Strategies** that may need to be considered during periods of expected or known N95 respirator shortages.

Please also refer to the tab titled **Healthcare Professionals: Frequently Asked Questions and Answers.**

Please refer to CT Department of Public Website for posters that can be printed and posted in your healthcare facility.