

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



Deidre S. Gifford, MD, MPH
Acting Commissioner

Ned Lamont
Governor
Susan Bysiewicz
Lt. Governor

HEALTHCARE QUALITY AND SAFETY BRANCH

BLAST FAX 2020-98

TO: All Nursing Homes

FROM: Acting Commissioner Deidre S. Gifford, MD, MPH

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Deidre S. Gifford".

CC: Deputy Commissioner Heather Aaron, MPH, LNHA
Adelita Orefice, MPM, JD, CHC, Senior Advisor to the Commissioner
Barbara Cass, RN., Branch Chief, Healthcare Quality and Safety Branch
Donna Ortelle, Section Chief, Facility Licensing and Investigations Section

DATE: October 8, 2020

SUBJECT: Personal Protective Equipment Inventory Attestation

In response to the Commissioner's Executive Order dated September 24, 2020, all Chronic and Convalescent Homes and Rest Homes with Nursing Supervision are required to stockpile an amount of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and disinfectants including, but not limited to N95 respirators, face shields, gloves, facemasks, gowns, and hand sanitizer to be reserved for use during an outbreak of COVID-19 among one or more residents in the facility. Facilities have until October 16, 2020 to implement the requirements outlined in the Commissioner's order.

The Commissioner's order requires all facilities to:

- Stockpile personal protective equipment (PPE) and disinfectants including, but not limited to, N95 respirators, face shields, gloves, facemasks, gowns and hand sanitizer to be reserved for use during an outbreak of COVID-19 among one or more residents in the facility
- Have enough reserve PPE and hand sanitizer to manage an outbreak of twenty percent (20%) of the facility's average daily census for a thirty (30) day period.



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- Compare the inventory of the facility's reserve stockpile against the facility's most recent average daily census and adjust the supply levels of the reserve stockpile on a monthly basis.
- Inspect the expiration dates of the PPE in the facility's reserve stockpile and replace expired or expiring PPE on a monthly basis.
- Maintain a supply of PPE and hand sanitizer to support the day to day operations separate from the reserve stockpile, and the facility may access the stockpile to manage infection control during a COVID-19 outbreak among residents.
- Maintain the reserve stockpile for the duration of the public health and civil preparedness emergency.
- Store the reserve stockpile on site or offsite in a location that is readily accessible in the event of a COVID-19 outbreak in my facility.
- Replenish the reserve stockpile as necessary.

On or before October 16, facilities should log on to the Department's web portal

<https://dphflisevents.ct.gov/> which is the same web address for the FLIS Events Reporting Tracking System. Log in as you would if reporting a facility incident, using your username and password. Across the top of the page choose "Attestation for PPE" tab. Click "Initiate Attestation form for PPE" and this will bring you to the official electronic attestation page. A facility shall choose their facility from the prepopulated drop-down box under "Facility Name". If you are an authorized user for more than one facility you must submit it for each individual facility. The facility should read the attestation, click the button at the bottom of the page acknowledging they have implemented the requirements of the Commissioner's Order. For assistance with the webpage, please click on the link at the bottom of the page that says "submit a ticket to FLIS at <https://dph-cthelpdesk.ct.gov/ticket>".