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**Subject:** RE: Copy of Letter to the Governor

Dr. Harrington,

Thanks to you and your colleagues for the letter to the Governor. I am writing on behalf of Secretary Ghaly, and the Directors of our Departments, regarding our efforts to ensure the health and safety of the residents in congregate care settings. These Californians are a top priority for us as they are the most vulnerable and are at heightened risk for COVID-19.

### **Personal Protective Equipment**

We have allocated through the [MHOAC system](#) 200,000 N95 masks and 200,000 gloves for SNFs. Additionally, we are pushing 200,000 N95 masks and 200,000 gloves for RCFEs. For context, facilities have been instructed to submit their resource requests to the MHOACs, if the county is not able to fulfill their requests, it is moved to the state.

### **Technical Assistance**

We have redirected 600 state nurses to provide infection control technical assistance to SNFs and RCFEs. These nurses are able to respond and deploy state-wide to assist responding quickly to these locations. We are also providing proactive technical assistance on infection control protocols.

### **Testing Prioritization**

We have prioritize the testing of SNF residents and their employees. We have deployed Abbott rapid response testing machines to the counties for the purpose of testing SNF residents and their employees to ensure that we can quickly test and isolate those who are positive in order to mitigate the spread of the virus within a facility.

### **Staffing**

We have developed a strike team of state staff who are calling each SNF in the state every single day to monitor their unmet needs, including staffing. If there is not sufficient staffing, the state is working with local and private partners to ensure sufficient staffing. Additionally, we are providing \$500 stipends to 50,000 certified nurse assistance, licensed vocational nurses and other critical staff at these facilities to make sure their needs are met. We are also offering no-cost or low-cost hotel rooms for workers who have had possible exposure to COVID-19 or test positive for COVID-19 and do not need to be hospitalized

## **Guidance Documents**

We have issued a number of guidance documents to SNFs and RCFEs over the last few weeks, below is a full list of guidance documents we have developed.

### *Public Health Guidance*

- AFL 20-22.1 [Guidance for Limiting the Transmission of COVID-19 in Long-Term Care Facilities](#)
- AFL 20-25.1 [Preparing for Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) in California Skilled Nursing Facilities](#)
- AFL 20-28 [Announcement: Extension of the Deadline to Apply for Patient Needs and Workforce Shortage Waivers](#)
- AFL 20-32 [Suspension of Regulatory Enforcement of Specified SNF Licensing Requirements](#)
- AFL 20-33 [Interim Guidance for Transfer of Residents with Suspected or Confirmed Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\)](#)

### *Social Services Guidance*

- [PIN 20-10-ASC](#) - Informational Call Regarding COVID-19 Social Distancing, Isolations and Disinfection Procedures
- [PIN 20-09-ASC](#) - Notice of Tele-Inspections and Rapid Assistance and Support Team (RAST) Tele-Visits
- [PIN 20-08-ASC](#) - Statewide Waivers for Licensing Requirements Due to Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) – Superseded by PIN 20-09-CCLD
- [PIN 20-07-ASC](#) - Prevention, Containment, Mitigation Measures, and Statewide Waiver for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)
- [PIN 20-05-ASC](#) – Informational Call Regarding Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)
- [PIN 20-04-ASC](#) – Guidance on 2019 Novel Coronavirus or COVID-19
- [PIN 20-03-ASC](#) - Informational Call Regarding Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)
- [PIN 20-02-ASC](#) - Information Regarding The Coronavirus Disease 2019

Again, our sincere thanks to you and your colleagues for sending this letter to us. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.