



IHCA response to members regarding IDPH Guidance on PPE released - 4/1/2020

On April 1, 2020, the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) released guidance that recommends that “healthcare workers that provide patient care in long term care facilities should use a minimum level of personal protective equipment (PPE) for all patient care activities. These healthcare workers should use a face mask and eye protection for all patient encounters.”

During recent conversations with IHCA, IDPH staff and Dr. Caitlin Pedati were made aware of the critical shortages of PPE that nursing facilities, assisted living and home health providers are experiencing and that providers may be unable to comply with this recommended guidance given the current supplies on hand and the unlikely ability we have to secure adequate supplies in the near future.

IDPH urges all providers to report their needs for PPE based upon these new recommendations to their local health department as urgent needs occur and at a minimum each week. IHCA recommends that you document your communications with your local health department along with your other efforts to obtain PPE.

IHCA has several resources on our website regarding the use and conservation of PPE and the use of homemade masks and face shields.

IHCA is acutely aware of the challenges this recommendation presents for you. We urge all providers to evaluate the risk your residents and employees have relative to your own community and to act as you are able given your current PPE situation to protect both.

###