

COVID-19 Guidance for Health Care Providers

Updated: May 12, 2020

Governor Mills' [Plan for Restarting Maine's Economy](#) gradually and safely allows for certain health care services to reopen in Stage One. This includes: "Health care from Maine licensed providers, with a recommendation that they prioritize care for patients with time-sensitive conditions; assure the safety of patients, staff, and communities; manage the use of essential resources such as personal protective equipment and testing supplies; and pace reopening services to the level of community COVID-19 activity, maintaining capacity in our hospitals for potential outbreaks."

This is consistent with the U.S. [Guidelines for Opening Up America Again](#) which say, in phase one, "**ELECTIVE SURGERIES** can resume, as clinically appropriate, on an outpatient and in-patient basis at facilities that adhere to CMS guidelines." Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) [guidelines can be found here](#).

The State of Maine will rely on the Federal government's guidance for what constitutes safely reopening health care services and activities. As additional resources, we also share guidance developed by national or Maine health care professional associations that is consistent with federal guidance. Links to such current guidance documents can be found below and we encourage health care providers to check with federal agencies and professional associations for updates moving forward. Health care entities are not required to participate in the Department of Economic and Community Development's (DECD) reopening approval process.

On May 12, the Director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) stated that CDC is in the process of updating its [April 27 guidance](#) on dental services which recommends postponing non-urgent dental care. Once issued, Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) will rely upon it along with relevant guidance from the [American Dental Association](#) (ADA) and [Maine Dental Association](#) (MDA). Until that point, dental providers continue to be encouraged to safely provide urgent care. If CDC recommendations are not issued by May 18, DHHS will rely upon the ADA and MDA guidance.

For health care providers (and businesses), reopening is optional and subject to their adoption of safety recommendations described below. Adoption of such guidelines will be deemed as an approval for reopening services, subject to change depending upon the demonstrated efficacy of the conditions imposed, the changing or general needs of public health or other pertinent factors. Any such approval is also subject to suspension or revocation depending upon actual and consistent compliance with such conditions.

It is each organization's responsibility to make changes, including the procurement of personal protective equipment (PPE), for voluntary reopening. The process currently in place for health care facilities in Maine to request PPE from the State cache is intended to provide supplies during times of emergencies to protect public health and safety. The State cache is not an appropriate source of PPE for reopening of health care services or private industry under the Governor's Plan. The Maine Manufacturing Extension Partnership has [compiled a list of Maine](#)

[companies producing medical equipment supplies and face coverings](#), which the Administration is sharing with Maine people as a resource. If private health care organizations cannot secure sufficient PPE to reopen services safely within the guidance offered by the U.S. CDC, U.S. CMS, OSHA, and professional associations, then they may not reopen.

| Facility/Service Type | U.S. CDC / Maine CDC / CMS Resources | Additional Information |
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| All | US CDC - Infection Control Guidance for Health Care Professionals about COVID | US Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) - 10 Steps All Workplaces Can Take to Reduce Risk of Exposure to Coronavirus AMA COVID-19 Guides for Health Care Professionals |
| Acupuncture | US CDC - Infection Control Guidance for Health Care Professionals about COVID | National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM) |
| Alcohol & Drug Counselors | US CDC - Infection Control Guidance for Health Care Professionals about COVID | Association for Addiction Professionals (NAADAC) |
| Ambulatory Care Settings* | U.S. CDC Guidance for Outpatient and Ambulatory Care Settings COVID-19 | American Academy of Family Physicians American Academy of PAs American Psychiatric Association American College of Physicians Federation of State Medical Boards American College of Surgeons |
| Assisted Living Facilities | U.S. CDC Guidance - Considerations When Preparing for COVID-19 in Assisted Living Facilities | |
| Athletic Trainers | US CDC - Infection Control Guidance for Health Care Professionals about COVID | National Athletic Trainers' Association |
| Blood and Plasma Facilities | U.S. CDC Guidance - Interim Infection Control Guidance on COVID-19 for Personnel at Blood and Plasma Collection Facilities | |
| Chiropractic Care | US CDC - Infection Control Guidance for Health Care Professionals about COVID | Federation of Chiropractic Licensing Boards (FCLB) American Chiropractic Association |
| Clinical Professional Counselors | US CDC - Infection Control Guidance for Health Care Professionals about COVID | National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC) |
| Dental Settings | U.S. CDC Guidance - Interim Infection Prevention and Control Guidance for Dental Settings COVID-19 | American Dental Association Maine Dental Association American Association of Orthodontists |
| Dialysis Facilities | U.S. CDC Guidance - Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19 in Outpatient Hemodialysis Facilities | |
| Hospitals | U.S. CDC Guidance - Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19 in Healthcare Settings U.S. CDC - Hospital Preparedness Checklist for COVID-19 | AHA Roadmap for Safely Resuming Elective Surgeries American Hospital Association |

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| | CMS Guidance – Non-Emergent, Elective Medical Services, and Treatment Recommendations | |
| Marriage & Family Therapists | US CDC - Infection Control Guidance for Health Care Professionals about COVID | American Association for Marriage & Family Therapy (AAMFT) |
| Massage Therapy | US CDC - Infection Control Guidance for Health Care Professionals about COVID | American Massage Therapy Association Associated Bodywork & Massage Professionals National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage & Bodywork |
| Midwives | US CDC - Infection Control Guidance for Health Care Professionals about COVID | National Association of Certified Professional Midwives (NACPM) |
| Naturopaths | US CDC - Infection Control Guidance for Health Care Professionals about COVID | American Association of Naturopathic Physicians Sample COVID office protocol |
| Nurses | US CDC - Infection Control Guidance for Health Care Professionals about COVID | National Council Nurses for State Boards of Nursing American Nurses Association American Association of Nurse Practitioners American Association of Nurse Anesthetists American College of Nurse Midwives |
| Nursing Facilities & Long Term-Care Facilities | U.S. CDC Guidance - Preparing for COVID-19 in Long-term Care Facilities, Nursing Homes U.S. CDC - Preparedness Checklist for Nursing Homes & Other Long-Term Care Facilities | National Association of Long Term Care Administrators Boards |
| Occupational Therapy | US CDC - Infection Control Guidance for Health Care Professionals about COVID | National Board of Occupational Therapy Practice |
| Optometry | US CDC - Infection Control Guidance for Health Care Professionals about COVID | American Optometric Association Reactivation Preparedness Guide |
| Pharmacies | U.S. CDC Guidance for Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians in Community Pharmacies - COVID-19 | NABP Retail Association of Maine (RAM) for guidance related to retail pharmacies |
| Physical Therapy | US CDC - Infection Control Guidance for Health Care Professionals about COVID | Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT) |
| Physicians and PAs | US CDC - Infection Control Guidance for Health Care Professionals about COVID | American Medical Association AFA Resources for Family Physicians American Osteopathic Association American Academy of Physician Assistants American Psychiatric Association American College of Physicians Federation of State Medical Boards American Academy of Pediatrics |
| Podiatric Medicine | US CDC - Infection Control Guidance for Health Care Professionals about COVID | American Podiatric Medical Association |

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| Psychology | US CDC - Infection Control Guidance for Health Care Professionals about COVID | American Psychological Association (APA) |
| Radiologic Technologists | US CDC - Infection Control Guidance for Health Care Professionals about COVID | American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT) |
| Respiratory Therapists | US CDC - Infection Control Guidance for Health Care Professionals about COVID | American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC) |
| Social Workers | US CDC - Infection Control Guidance for Health Care Professionals about COVID | National Association of Social Workers (NASW) |
| Speech-Language Pathologists/Audiologists/Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters | US CDC - Infection Control Guidance for Health Care Professionals about COVID | American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters |

*Ambulatory settings are settings where health services or acute care services are provided on an outpatient basis, and can include community health centers, urgent care centers, retail clinics co-located in pharmacies, grocery stores, or mass merchants, hospital-based outpatient clinics, non-hospital-based clinics and physician offices, and public health clinics.