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Still Waiting for NHSN to Complete Your Registration? Start Data Collection Now.

Is your nursing center still waiting access to the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) COVID-19 reporting module? There is a lag time between initiating registration to NHSN and completion of the registration process due to the number of long term care facilities that are trying to gain access. NHSN is reporting a 24-48 hour, and in some instances longer, lag time between initial registration to actual completion of registration and the ability to use the COVID-19 reporting module.

While waiting for the registration process to complete, you should download now the four data collection pathway forms and accompanying instructions to start collecting the data that you will be uploading to [NHSN](#) once registration process is complete. It is extremely important to download, and refer to, the instructions page for each of the four data collection pathways. Refer to the definitions of each term prior to completing the data collection form.

The four data collection pathway forms are:

- [Resident Impact and Facility Capacity](#)
- [Staff and Personnel Impact](#)
- [Supplies and Personal Protective Equipment](#)
- [Ventilator Capacity and Supplies](#)

VA Suspends Transitions to New Systems Due to COVID-19

The VA recently announced that their transition to HealthShare Referral Manager (HSRM) and Electronic Claims Administration Management System (eCAMS) for the Community Nursing Home (CNH) program has been suspended until further notice due to COVID-19. As a result of this suspension, the following actions are required:

1. Non-CCN CNH authorizations should continue to be issued through VistA. Any authorizations for non-CCN CNH made through HSRM need to be reissued through VistA, according to the guidance provided by the Office of Geriatrics and Extended Care dated April 2, 2020.
2. CNH providers need to be notified to continue to send CNH claims via paper directly to VA medical centers (VAMC) under previously established processes. CNH claims should not be sent via electronic data interchange (EDI) to VA at this time.

Additional training and guidance are being developed for VA staff and CNH providers, and will be announced once the transition to HSRM and eCAMS restarts.

PPE Scams Are Abundant, Particularly for N-95

Shortages of PPE such as N95 respirators persist. However, there is no shortage of non-medical suppliers and distributors that claim to have N95 and KN95 masks and other PPE for sale. Many of the sales calls come from third party representatives claiming to have ready access to PPE. Be cautious and ask yourself, “Why does this non-medical distributor have access to PPE when the major medical distributors and suppliers that I have used in the past do not?”

Be on the lookout for these BIG red flags when contacted by these salespersons:

- Emails that come from personal email accounts such as Gmail or Yahoo accounts.
- No last name from the sender or company contact information in the email, including a website that you independently can verify through a web search engine.
- Pressure tactics such as “you must place your order and pay today/now if you want to get your order in the next shipment.”
- A requirement that you must pay up front to place your order usually through wire transfers, direct transfers from your bank accounts, PayPal or Venmo.

When working with a new supplier, ask for references of other long term care providers who have ordered from the company and had the PPE delivered. Then, independently check those references. Read more complete [guidance on avoiding scams](#).

We continue to recommend working with existing suppliers or contacting your state agency for PPE.

Please email COVID19@ahca.org for additional questions, or visit ahcancal.org/coronavirus for more information.

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