

LONG TERM CARE & SENIOR LIVING BLOG

# OSHA Guidance to Nursing Homes

AUTHOR: KATHERINE MELZER

The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) issued its first set of workplace guidelines directed to nursing homes since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

OSHA did not recommend testing of residents or workers. The one-page "OSHA Alert" bulletin provides sixteen tips aimed at reducing the spread of COVID-19, including that nursing homes should encourage workers to stay home if they feel ill, maintain at least six feet between workers, residents, and visitors (to the extent possible), follow CDC guidance on updating existing resident visitation policies, ensure workers have and use personal protective equipment (PPE), and continually monitor PPE stocks, burn rate, and supply chains.

While some worker advocates have called for more-stringent operating standards, the Labor Department appears to prefer flexible guidance as better for businesses than rigid, temporary standards.

This post provides an overview of the recent OSHA guidance for nursing homes, as part of our continued commitment to keep healthcare providers aware of the changing COVID-19 landscape. If you have any questions about OSHA guidance or any other legal or regulatory matter, Sandberg Phoenix & von Gontard P.C. is ready to assist you with all aspects of nursing home and long-term care.