



June 22, 2020

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo  
Executive Chamber  
NYS Capital  
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

On behalf of Argentum NY, ESAAL, LeadingAge NY, and NYSCAL, representing New York State's adult care facilities and assisted living residences and the residents and families they serve, we share your commitment to ensure the health and well-being of New York's seniors against COVID-19.

This pandemic has prompted an unprecedented public health emergency and presented our providers and their dedicated staff with innumerable challenges as they work around the clock to provide high quality care, supports and services to their residents while protecting them from COVID-19. Front line workers have made incredible personal sacrifices to ensure the needs of their residents are met. Our providers have remained committed to engaging their residents in meaningful and fulfilling activities that promote mental and physical well-being and have been diligent in safely connecting residents to their families and friends.

Executive Orders 202.30 and 202.40 require adult care facilities, assisted living residences, and nursing homes to test all staff, including contract staff, initially twice and now once per week for COVID-19 in all regions in Phase 2 or Phase 3 of reopening. We recognize the importance and value of broad-based preventative testing in order to reduce the spread of the virus and ensure the safety of residents and staff. The unprecedented and critical nature of this pandemic substantiates our request for the allocation of federal and State funding to reimburse providers for all costs associated with testing.

While health insurers are covering the testing costs for diagnosis and treatment of COVID-19, the cost of mandatory, preventative testing for non-symptomatic staff, as required under the Executive Orders, is generally not covered by health insurance. A single COVID-19 diagnostic test can cost between \$50 to \$150 per person, per test; and reportedly the costs are increasing since this requirement began.

This is placing significant financial strain on assisted living and adult care facilities already facing additional personnel costs associated with the testing mandate, staffing shortages and turnover, and maintaining adequate supplies of personal protective equipment. Further, many of these providers did not receive any COVID-19 relief funding that other providers, including nursing homes, were able to access.

Therefore, we respectfully request your leadership and support in allocating funding to reimburse adult care facilities and assisted living communities for expenses related to COVID-19 testing as required under Executive Order 202.30 and Executive Order 202.40.

We look forward to continuing our work together with you and your Administration to maintain the health and well-being of New York's adult care facility and assisted living residents.

Thank you again for your consideration. We welcome the opportunity to further discuss funding to support testing related expenses.



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