



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Robert R. Neall, Secretary

August 3, 2020

Mr. Joseph DeMattos, Jr.
President & CEO
Health Facilities Association of Maryland

Mr. Kevin Heffner
President & CEO
LifeSpan Network

Ms. Allison Ciborowski
President & CEO
LeadingAge Maryland

Dear Mr. DeMattos, Mr. Heffner, and Ms. Ciborowski:

Since our July 24, 2020 response to your correspondence regarding the protection of Marylanders' health and safety in long term care facilities during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) has continued to work with you and other valued stakeholders on how to effectively safeguard our most vulnerable long-term care populations.

As part of the transition to nursing home-led testing on August 15 and our overall state COVID-19 testing strategy, MDH has been working with COVID-19 testing-certified labs in Maryland to ensure sufficient testing capacity and reliable turnaround times.

Over the past week, MDH worked tirelessly with the University of Maryland Pathology Associates (UMPA) lab to negotiate a fair price for COVID-19 specimen processing for nursing homes. UMPA has agreed to provide a discounted processing fee of forty dollars (\$40.00) per specimen. You will note, this is a sixty percent (60%) discount from the current U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) reimbursable rate of one hundred dollars (\$100) per specimen.

In order to take advantage of this opportunity, please contact UMPA representative, Kristie Johnson, at jkjohnson@som.umaryland.edu or 443-956-4916.

Should you not avail yourself of this opportunity, we remind you that you must submit evidence that your member facilities have secured COVID-19 testing capacity for your staff by means of private contractual arrangements with labs and/or submit alternative testing plans by August 14, 2020. Additionally, please keep in mind MDH will continue to monitor all nursing homes for compliance with weekly testing.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me or MDH's Director of Governmental Affairs, Webster Ye, webster.ye@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis R. Schrader".

Dennis R. Schrader
Chief Operating Officer
Unified Area Command, Testing Task Force