



**Coronavirus Member Briefing
Vice President Pence Press Briefing
March 4, 2020**

Yesterday evening, Vice President Pence held a press briefing that included information about decisions authorized by the Coronavirus task force “to put all inspection resources, at the state level, focused on infectious disease, looking at nursing homes being a focal point of vulnerability and a vulnerable population.” See the full transcript of the briefing [here](#).

At the same briefing, CMS Administrator Seema Verma indicated CMS will be:

- Issuing a call to action to hospitals, nursing homes, dialysis providers, and all healthcare facilities to review their infection control and emergency preparedness procedures to ensure that they are in compliance with CMS regulatory requirements.
- Reissuing some guidance around infection control, around transfers between nursing homes and hospitals, encouraging and requiring them to consult with local healthcare officials as well as some guidance around screening visitors and healthcare workers.
- Releasing guidance to state inspectors who physically visit and evaluate healthcare facilities. The guidance is to provide information on the latest CDC protocols that must be followed when inspecting these facilities with suspected cases of respiratory illness. Inspectors should be coordinating with the CDC, CMS, and local healthcare officials as well as make sure that they have the appropriate protective — personal protective equipment.
- Deploying two infection control specialists to CDC in Atlanta for CMS to remain in lockstep with the CDC as the situation evolves and to coordinate policies in real time.

As we learn more from national LeadingAge, CMS and Oregon DHS, we will pass on the information to you.

Additional resources and information can be found at the [LeadingAge](#) and [LeadingAge Oregon](#) websites, which will be updated frequently as new information becomes available.