RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

MARY C. MAYHEW
SECRETARY

Follow-up to Agency's Guidance to Implement Universal Use of Face Masks in Residential / Long Term Care Facilities

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We understand the concern about our Agency's recent directive (Wednesday, March 18th) for staff in long term care settings to wear masks. The use of these masks is intended to prevent the spread of infection from staff to residents. Understanding that there is an extreme shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE), including masks, the Agency will NOT penalize facilities that are unable to follow this directive due to supply shortages. Limited supplies should be prioritized for staff with direct resident contact and utilized per CDC guidelines.

The entire country is struggling with an extreme shortage of PPE, including masks. Please use your existing supply chain to order any needed masks and other PPE. The County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is a resource to obtain necessary supplies in an emergency. Although counties do not have excess at this time, if you have not submitted a request already, you can submit a request to the County EOC which will help to inform statewide prioritization of supplies as they arrive in Florida.

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