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**Sent:** Thursday, March 19, 2020 9:49 AM  
**To:**  
**Subject:** DOH notification on suspension of inspections

The Department of Health has temporarily suspended routine state compliance inspections in all health care facilities we regulate, including Ambulatory Surgical Facilities.

This change will allow health care facilities to focus their energy, resources, and staff on the COVID-19 response and caring for patients. It will also allow the department to focus our work on technical assistance, resolution of on-going enforcement actions, and investigations of complaints that pose the greatest risk to patients.

We will continue the following state compliance activities:

1. Investigate complaints that allege immediate risk to patient safety or patient abuse/neglect.
2. Investigate complaints that allege immediate risk to patient safety due to infection control concerns, including facilities with potential or confirmed COVID-19 or other respiratory illness.-
3. Perform on-site visits as necessary to resolve pending enforcement actions.
4. Conduct initial state licensure inspections of new facilities and remodel of facilities to support access to care.

This approach is consistent with [guidance](#) published by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). Additional CMS guidance is located [here](#) (sort on posting date to find the most recent guidance).



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