

TAFEC strongly opposes the practice of billing excessive fees for any COVID-19 testing or related services by any healthcare providers, including TAFEC members, other emergency facilities, hospitals or any other healthcare facilities. Improper billing practices include charging facility fees or emergency-level professional fees that are inconsistent with the level of care provided to a patient. In particular, facility fees and professional fees for COVID-19 patients should only be used for patients who receive testing and associated services inside of a licensed freestanding emergency center and who are seen and evaluated by a physician.

TAFEC's position on COVID-19 testing by its members and other FECs also includes the following:

- TAFEC has and will continue to support the appropriate utilization of FECs for access to emergency care;
- TAFEC supports FECs in complying with their legal obligations to provide every patient with an appropriate medical screening consistent with their symptoms and condition;
- TAFEC strongly encourages all facilities, including FECs, to disclose to patients and to the public the full scope of their charges for services, including COVID-19 and associated testing
- TAFEC is an industry association, and it would be illegal for TAFEC or its members to coordinate or cooperate on pricing.

TAFEC wishes to emphasize the special nature of freestanding emergency centers, which are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for patients with many types of emergency medical conditions. Because of the special nature of these facilities, freestanding emergency centers are capable of providing a higher standard of care than is available at many other testing sites, faster and more useful test results and can help identify and treat many serious conditions (including COVID-19 and complications related to COVID-19).

