



**Indiana**  
Department  
of  
**Health**

## **Long-term Care** **NEWSLETTER**

**LTC Newsletter 2020-74**

**December 09, 2020**

### **Long-term Care Update:**

- COVID-19 CDC Guidance - Updates
- LTC Facility COVID-19 Data Submission Guidelines
- QSO 21-06-NH – Updates to the Nursing Home Compare website and Five Star Quality Rating System
- University of Southern Indiana Center for Healthy Aging and Wellness — Positive Approach to Care Virtual Training

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### **COVID-19 CDC Guidance – Update**

The CDC has issued new / updated guidance:

- [Quarantine Guidelines for Long Term Care](#)
- [COVID-19 Guidance for Hospital Discharge to Long-Term Care](#)

These documents are available on the IDH COVID-19 [website](#).

### **LTC Facility COVID-19 Submission Guidelines**

As testing at long-term care (LTC) facilities has expanded with the addition of point-of-care testing kits, the state has likewise expanded the avenues through which the data is collected from facilities. Given the additional modes of entry for COVID-19 data, the Indiana Department of Health wants to offer clear guidelines for facilities so they can correctly and accurately submit data regarding their residents and staff.

The table and chart attached outline the various pathways LTC facilities submit COVID-19 related data to the state and federal governments.

Importantly, the state requires that facilities report to the following systems, which are focused on patient-level testing information:

- Long-term Care COVID-19 Reporting form (row 1)
- COVID-19 Point of Care (POC) Test Reporting form (row 2)
  - Certified nursing homes (SNF/NFs) are exempt from this reporting beginning Oct. 28, 2020, and should begin reporting point-of care testing to NHSN directly (row 4)
- Death Reporting Line for COVID-19 related deaths (row 6)

In addition, the federal government (the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services) requires all certified nursing homes (SNF/NFs) to submit point-of care and facility-specific data to the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN)(rows 3 & 4).

Finally, facilities not reporting directly to NHDN who wish to contribute to aggregated data submitted to NHSN by the Department of Health can do so through an additional form (row 5).

- [Reporting Systems for COVID-19 Table](#)
- [Data Submission Process Flow: Case Level Information Chart](#)
- [LTC Facility COVID-19 Data Submission Guidelines](#)

## **QSO 21-06-NH – Updates to the Nursing Home Compare website and Five Star Quality Rating System**

The Nursing Home Compare website and Five Star Quality Rating has served as valuable resources for consumers to view information about nursing homes to support health care decisions. QSO 21-06-NH provides the following updates:

- Health Inspection Ratings
- Quality Measures
- Transition to the new Care Compare website

Complete information: [QSO 21-06-NH - Updates to the Nursing Home Compare website and Five Star Quality Rating System](#)

## **University of Southern Indiana Center for Healthy Aging and Wellness — Positive Approach to Care Virtual Training**

The University of Southern Indiana Center for Health Aging and Wellness has received funds from the Indiana Department of Health to develop a dementia care training for nursing home staff in Indiana. This project *Building a Dementia-Competent Nursing Home Workforce* is a collaboration with Teepa Snow and Positive Approach to Care® (PAC), to improve the lives of individuals living with dementia and transform the culture of dementia care.

This project is now in the final year. This program includes building a dementia-competent certified nurse assistance (CNA) workforce by offering opportunities to embed the PAC training model into the CNA programs state-wide (both non facility-based CNA programs and facility-based CNA programs). More than 45 CNA programs have participated in the last two years and approximately 120 learners have attended the PAC certification classes.

The next PAC Course presented by Teepa Snow and team will be virtual. The dates are 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. EST Feb. 23 – 25, 2021. Participants may attend this course at **no cost**.

Registration information is available at [USI Center for Healthy Aging & Wellness – Dementia & CNA Workforce](#).

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