



Indiana State
Department of Health

LONG TERM CARE NEWSLETTER

ISDH Long Term Care Newsletter
Issue 2020-32
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Today's Issue:

- **CMS Update – QSO-20-29-NH Interim final Rule Updating Requirements for Notification of Confirmed and Suspected COVID-19 Cases Among Residents and Staff in Nursing Homes**
- **CDC COVID-19 Prevention Messages: Mini Webinar Series for Long-Term Care Staff**
- **Life Safety Code - COVID-19 Emergency Declaration Blanket Waivers for Health Care Providers**

QSO-20-29-NH

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is committed to taking critical steps to ensure America's healthcare facilities are prepared to respond to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Public Health Emergency (PHE). On May 8, 2020, CMS will publish an interim final rule with comment period. CMS is requiring nursing homes to report COVID-19 facility data to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and to residents, their representatives, and families of residents in facilities. Failure to report in accordance with 42CFR §483.80(g) can result in enforcement action.

CMS has updated the COVID-19 Focused Survey for Nursing Homes, Entrance Conference Worksheet, COVID-19 Focused Survey Protocol and Summary of the COVID-19 Focused Survey for Nursing Homes to reflect COVID-19 reporting requirements.

COVID-19 Tags:

- F884 – Reporting COVID-19 to the CDC as required by §483.80(g)(1)-(2).
- F885 – Reporting to Residents, their Representatives, and Families as required by §483.80(g)(3)(i)-(iii).

CMS will begin posting data from the CDC National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) for viewing by facilities, stakeholders, or the general public. The COVID-19 public use file will be available on <https://data.cms.gov/>.

Complete Information for: [QSO-20-29-NH Interim Final Rule updating Requirements for Notification of Confirmed and Suspected COVID-19 Cases Among Residents and Staff in Nursing Homes.](#)

CDC COVID-19 Prevention Messages: Mini Webinar Series for Long-Term Care Staff

Trainings for nursing home and long-term care facility staff to protect residents from COVID-19

CDC has launched a new mini webinar training series for frontline long-term care and nursing home staff. This series of 5 short webinars reviews basic infection prevention steps including proper use of personal protective equipment (PPE) and facemasks, how and when to perform hand hygiene, how and when to clean surfaces, and the need to check residents and staff daily for symptoms of COVID-19. Learn more about your role in protecting residents and keeping COVID-19 out of your facility.

Webinar Series:

- [Sparkling Surfaces](#)
- [Clean Hands](#)
- [Closely Monitor Residents](#)
- [Keep COVID-19 Out](#)
- [PPE Lessons](#)

Additional Resources:

- [Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed Coronavirus Disease 19 \(COVID-19\) in Healthcare Settings](#)
- [Additional Guidance for Nursing Homes and Long-Term Settings](#)
- [Key Strategies to Prepare for COVID-19 in Long-term Care Facilities](#)
- [Preparedness Checklist for Nursing Homes and Other Long Term Care Settings](#)

Life Safety Code - COVID-19 Emergency Declaration Blanket Waivers for Health Care Providers – 04/29/2020

On 4/29/20, CMS issued a new list of blanket 1135 waivers that providers can use during the COVID-19 pandemic and emergency declaration. The section for physical environment waivers starts on page 23. That section contains information related to inspection, testing and maintenance of various systems that exist in a building. The language for the blanket waiver, in part, is “CMS is temporarily modifying these requirements to the extent necessary to permit these facilities to adjust scheduled inspection, testing and maintenance (ITM) frequencies and activity for activities and medical equipment.” CMS is not recommending a revised testing schedule for the various systems. Under the blanket waiver, CMS is asking each provider to evaluate their individual situation and if the facility feels there is a need to adjust the ITM schedule due to the pandemic, they’re permitted to do so.

The bullets below were determined to be too critical to waive and are NOT part of the blanket waiver:

- Sprinkler system monthly electric motor-driven and weekly diesel engine driven fire pump testing.
- Portable fire extinguisher monthly inspection.
- Elevators with firefighters' emergency operations monthly testing.
- Emergency generator 30 continuous minute monthly testing and associated transfer switch monthly testing.
- Means of egress daily inspection in areas that have undergone construction, repair, alterations or additions to ensure its ability to be used instantly in case of emergency.

Facilities must find a way to safely adhere to the ITM requirements. Lastly, fire drills are not an activity covered under this blanket waiver and therefore are not currently waived.

Complete waiver: [COVID-19 Emergency Declaration Blanket Waivers for Health Care Providers – 04/29/2020](#)