



Indiana State
Department of Health

LONG TERM CARE NEWSLETTER

ISDH Long Term Care Newsletter
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Today's Issue:

- **CMS – QSO-20-31-All – COVID-19 Survey Activities, CARES Act Funding, Enhanced Enforcement for Infection Control deficiencies, and Quality Improvement Activities in Nursing Homes**
- **LTC Update – Outdoor Family visitation at Long-term Care Facilities**
- **Leading Age – Social Connectedness and Engagement Technology Tool**

QSO-20-31-All – COVID-19 Survey Activities, CARES Act Funding, Enhanced Enforcement for Infection Control deficiencies, and Quality Improvement Activities in Nursing Homes

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is committed to taking critical steps to protect vulnerable Americans to ensure America's health care facilities are prepared to respond to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Public Health Emergency (PHE).

CMS has implemented a new COVID-19 reporting requirement for nursing homes and is partnering with CDC's robust federal disease surveillance system to quickly identify problem areas and inform future infection control actions.

Following the March 6, 2020 survey prioritization, CMS has relied on State Survey Agencies to perform Focused Infection Control surveys of nursing homes across the country. CMS is now initiating a performance-based funding requirement tied to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act supplemental grants for State Survey Agencies. Further, CMS is providing guidance for the limited resumption of routine survey activities.

CMS is also enhancing the penalties for noncompliance with infection control to provide greater accountability and consequence for failure to meet these basic requirements. This action follows the agency's prior focus on equipping facilities with the tools needed to ensure compliance, including 12 nursing home guidance documents, technical assistance webinars, weekly calls with nursing homes, and many other outreach efforts. The enhanced enforcement actions are more significant for nursing homes with a history

of past infection control deficiencies, or that cause actual harm to residents or Immediate Jeopardy.

Quality Improvement Organizations have been strategically refocused to assist nursing homes in combating COVID-19 through such efforts as education and training, creating action plans based on infection control problem areas and recommending steps to establish a strong infection control and surveillance program.

Complete Information: [QSO-20-31-All – COVID-19 Survey Activities, CARES Act Funding, Enhanced Enforcement for Infection Control deficiencies, and Quality Improvement Activities in Nursing Homes](#)

Outdoor Family visitation at Long-term Care Facilities

The Indiana State Department of Health [2019 Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#) website has been updated with new guidance for [Outdoor Family Visitation at Long-term Care Facilities](#). This guidance provides conditions for outdoor visitation that includes facility, resident and visitor criteria.

Leading Age - Social Connectedness and Engagement Technology Tool

LeadingAge CAST produces and publishes a comprehensive portfolio of hands-on resources that help providers understand, plan for, select, implement, and adopt the appropriate technology while advocating for innovative care models.

The complete portfolio of Social Connectedness and Engagement Technology tools include:

- Social Connectedness and Engagement Technology for LTPAC: A Primer on Planning and Vendor Selection Guide
- Social Connectedness and Engagement Technology Interactive Guide
- Online Social Connectedness and Engagement Technology Selection Tool
- Social Connectedness and Engagement Technology Selection Matrix
- Social Connectedness and Engagement Technology Provider Case Studies

Complete Information: [Social Connectedness and Engagement Technology Tool](#)