



Indiana
Department
of
Health

Long-term Care NEWSLETTER

LTC Newsletter 2022-23
June 2, 2022

LTC Update:

- **Civil Money Penalty (CMP) Reinvestment Application – In-Person Visitation Aids – Portable Fans and Portable Room Air Cleaners – Reminder**
- **Report Outbreak Case Alerts on Gateway – Reminder**
- **Antivirals – Reminder**
- **CMS Guidance Related to Emergency Preparedness – Update**

Civil Money Penalty (CMP) Reinvestment Application – In-Person Visitation Aids – Portable Fans and Portable Room Air Cleaners – Reminder

Facilities may request the use of Civil Money Penalty (CMP) Reinvestment funds to purchase portable fans and portable room air cleaners with high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA, H-13 or -14) filters to increase or improve air quality. On Feb. 2, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a revised FAQ guidance for Nursing Home Visitation – COVID-19 in Memorandum [QSO-20-39-NH Revised](#). A **maximum use of \$3,000 per facility** including shipping costs may be requested. Expenses incurred on or after the release of Memorandum QSO-20-39-NH FAQ Revised 2/2/2022 are eligible for reimbursement.

CMS has developed an application template for requests for the use of CMP Reinvestment funds to provide nursing homes with in-person visitation aids. Facilities must submit applications to INCMP@isdh.in.gov and email questions to Suzanne Williams at suwilliams@isdh.in.gov.

[Civil Money Penalty \(CMP\) Reinvestment Application Template Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) In-Person Visitation Aids Request Instructions](#)

[CMP Application for In-Person Visitation Aid Requests Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#)

Report Outbreak Case Alerts on Gateway – Reminder

Please refer to the updated [reporting guidance document](#).

- All LTC facilities must report* Outbreak Case Alerts to IDOH within 24 hours through the [Incident Reporting Gateway](#).
 - Use the same NHSN definition for Outbreak Case Alert for both residents and staff:
 - Resident Outbreak Case Alert:
>=1 confirmed cases among residents in a facility where no confirmed cases were identified during the 4-week period prior to the most recent week
 - Staff Outbreak Case Alert:
>=1 confirmed cases among staff in a facility where no confirmed cases were identified during the 4-week period prior to the most recent week

**The purpose of reporting is to identify facility-associated infections. Facilities do not count resident cases that were positive upon admission OR new admissions that turn positive while in transmission-based precautions or staff cases that did not enter the building during the infectious period (two days before their positive test or symptoms and after the onset of symptoms or positive test).*

- Outbreak Case Alerts should be reported through the Incident Reporting Gateway, which is the same process used for reporting other epidemiological outbreaks and communicable disease cases.

Facilities should include the following information in their report:

- Number of resident confirmed cases
- Number of staff confirmed cases
- Date of last confirmed case
- Current facility census

A five-day follow-up is not required. Facilities should indicate on the report that it is both the initial and the follow-up report.

Information and instructions for reporting through the Incident Reporting Gateway can be found at <https://www.in.gov/health/long-term-care/nursing-homes/incident-reporting-by-long-term-care-facilities/>.

Facilities ONLY need to submit an incident report through the Gateway report when the initial case meets the Outbreak Case Alert definition; it is not necessary to continue reporting new cases through the Gateway. This information will be gathered through additional outreach by IDOH.

If four weeks have passed without a new case, facilities ONLY need to report if a new confirmed case meets the Outbreak Case Alert definition.

The following reporting guidance is unchanged:

- LTC facilities should continue to report to NHSN as required by CMS.
- LTC facilities should continue to report point of care (POC) test results through the COVID-19 Point of Care Test Reporting REDCap.
Facilities that are already reporting POC results through NHSN do NOT need to report this information through REDCap. [COVID-19 Point of Care Test Reporting REDCap](#)
- COVID-19 deaths should be reported through the IDOH 2019 Novel Coronavirus Death Reporting Line at 765-860-6053.

Antivirals – Reminder

Facilities are reminded to use this link to find antivirals: [Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): COVID-19 Treatment Information.](#)

CMS Guidance Related to Emergency Preparedness – Update

CMS has updated guidance related to emergency preparedness-exercise exemption based on a facility's activation of its emergency plan.

The updated guidance applies only if a facility is still currently operating under its activated emergency plan or reactivated its emergency plan for COVID-19 in 2021 or 2022. Facilities that have resumed normal operating status (not under their activated emergency plans) are required to conduct their testing exercises based on the regulatory requirements for their specific provider or supplier type. This guidance provides clarifications on testing exemptions for those providers/suppliers who continue to operate under their activated emergency plan and those that may have reactivated their emergency plans for COVID-19. This guidance will also apply for any subsequent 12-month cycles in the future, in the event facilities continue to operate under their activated emergency plans for COVID-19 response activities.

Review [QSO-20-41-ALL](#), revised 5/26/2022, for detailed information.