

ISDH Long Term Care Newsletter
Issue 2020-26
April 20, 2020

Today's Issue:

- **Fifth Emergency Order Granting Temporary Blanket Waivers for Residential Care Facilities**
- **Temporary Nurse Aide Guidance**
- **CMS Update**
- **Indiana State Department of Health COVID-19 Resource Center**

Fifth Emergency Order Granting Temporary Blanket Waivers for Residential Care Facilities

Pursuant to the “Declaration of Public Health Emergency for Coronavirus Disease 2019 Outbreak” issued by Governor Eric Holcomb on March 6, 2020 and as supplemented (the “Governor’s Declaration”), and as authorized by IC 4-21.5-4-1, IC 16-28-1-10, and the September 18, 1991 resolution of the Executive Board of the Indiana State Department of Health (“ISDH”), the Indiana State Health Commissioner hereby **ORDERS** as follows:

The “Temporary Nurse Aide” program offered by the American Health Care Association (“AHCA”) and the National Center for Assisted Living (“NACL”) is temporarily approved by ISDH as a nurse aide training program and competency evaluation program.

Complete Signed Order: [Fifth Emergency Order Granting Temporary Blanket Waivers for Residential Care Facilities](#)

Temporary Nurse Aide Guidance

ISDH has received some questions about the April 18, 2020 “Sixth Emergency Order Granting Temporary Blanket Waivers for Comprehensive Care Facilities” and the April 20, 2020 “Fifth Emergency Order Granting Temporary Blanket Waivers for Residential Care Facilities.”

[Temporary Nurse Aide Guidance](#)

Each facility that utilizes a temporary CNA approved through the AHCA Program must (1) maintain documentation showing the aide completed the Program, including passing its final assessment and competency check-off; and (2) give notice to ISDH by filling in the [Temporary Nurse Aide – Registry Spreadsheet](#) and emailing the completed document to aides@isdh.in.gov.

CMS Update

QSO-20-26-NH – UPCOMING REQUIREMENT FOR NOTIFICATION OF CONFIRMED COVID-19 (OR COVID-19 PERSONS UNDER INVESTIGATION) AMONG RESIDENTS AND STAFF IN NURSING HOMES

To ensure appropriate tracking, response, and mitigation of COVID-19 in nursing homes, CMS is reinforcing an existing requirement that nursing homes must report communicable diseases, healthcare-associated infections and potential outbreaks to State and Local health departments. In rulemaking that will follow, CMS is requiring facilities to report this data to the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in a standardized format and frequency defined by CMS and CDC. Failure to report cases of residents or staff who have confirmed COVID-19 and Persons under Investigation (PUI) could result in an enforcement action. This memorandum summarizes new requirements which will be put in place very soon.

CMS will also be previewing a new requirement for facilities to notify residents' and their representatives to keep them up to date on the conditions inside the facility, such as when new cases of COVID-19 occur.

Complete Memorandum: [Upcoming Requirements for Notification of Confirmed COVID-19 \(or COVID-19 Persons under Investigation\) Among Residents and Staff in Nursing Homes](#)

Indiana State Department of Health COVID-19 Resource Center

Please consult the [Indiana State Department of Health COVID-19 webpage](#) for updated news and guidance on the COVID-19 outbreak. Updates will be made as new information becomes available. Please contact your healthcare provider if you experience symptoms such as fever, cough and shortness of breath and have a recent history of travel to areas affected by COVID-19 or contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19.

General questions from the public or healthcare provider inquiries about COVID-19 may be directed to the ISDH COVID-19 Call Center at the **toll-free number 877-826-0011 (available 24/7)**.