



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

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

### **LTC Newsletter 2021-15**

---

**March 18, 2021**

#### **CMS Updates:**

- QSO-2-39-NH – Nursing Home Visitation – COVID-19 - *REVISED*

#### **LTC Updates:**

- Long-term Care Guidelines & Information
  - Long-term Care Facilities Guidelines in Response to COVID-19 Vaccination – NEW
  - COVID-19 LTC Facility Infection Control Guidance Standard Operating Procedure – UPDATED
  - Long-term Care Facility Communication Guidelines – *UPDATED*
  - Visitor & Employee Screening Tool – *REVISED*
  - Mom's Vaccinated: WHEN CAN I VISIT HER NURSING HOME? – NEW

### **QSO-2-39-NH – Nursing Home Visitation – COVID-19 - *REVISED***

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) in conjunction with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has updated visitation guidance with an emphasis on maintaining infection prevention practices given the continued risk of COVID-19 transmission. The new guidance includes changes in the following:

- Core Principles of COVID-19 Infection Prevention
- Outdoor Visitation
- Indoor Visitation
- Indoor Visitation during an Outbreak

- Visitor Testing and Vaccination
- Compassionate Care Visits
- Access to the Long-Term Care Ombudsman
- Federal Disability Rights Laws and Protection & Advocacy (P&A) Programs
- Survey Considerations

Complete information: [QSO-20-39-NH Nursing Home Visitation – COVID-19 \(REVISED\)](#)

## **Long-term Care Guidelines and Information**

### **Long-term Care Facilities Guidelines in Response to COVID-19 Vaccination – *NEW***

Long-term care facility guidance has been updated based on the recent changes from the Centers for Disease Prevention and Control (CDC) and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). [Long-term Care Facilities Guidelines in Response to COVID-19 Vaccination](#) includes updates / changes in the following areas:

- Guiding Principles
- Core Principles of Infection Prevention
- Visitation
- Personal Services and Activities Inside the Facility Q&A

NOTE: These guidelines replace the visitation guidelines document dated 02.25.21.

### **COVID-19 LTC Facility Infection Control Guidance Standard Operating Procedure – *UPDATED***

The [COVID-19 LTC Facility Infection Control Guidance Standard Operating Procedure](#) has been updated in the following areas:

- Masks and Eye Protection
- General COVID-19 Infection Control for Long-term Care Facilities
- Infection Control Steps When Healthcare Worker or Resident Test Positive for COVID-19
- Isolation (Transmission-Based Precautions) Removal Recommendations

### **Long-term Care Facility Communication Guidelines – *UPDATED***

The following changes have been made in the COMMUNICATION REQUIREMENTS section of the [Long-term Care Facility Communication Guidelines](#):

2. Residents and Representatives Daily Communication – *UPDATED*

The guidelines for cumulative updates to residents, designated representatives and families has changed from daily to weekly. In addition, anytime a confirmed COVID-19 infection is identified, or whenever three or more residents or staff with new onset of respiratory symptoms occur within 72 hours of each other the facility must communicate this to residents and designated representatives and families by the next calendar day.

### 3. Ombudsman Weekly Report– *UPDATE*

The Ombudsman office is changing the submission of COVID-19 information from weekly to monthly. This information can be sent with the emergency transfer information. The [Facility Emergency Transfer Form](#) has been revised to include the COVID-19 information. This form is optional, facilities can continue to use their current forms or spreadsheets. Reports can be submitted to the local Ombudsman or to the [State Ombudsman](#).

### **Visitor and Employee Screening – *REVISED***

[Both the Visitor Screening Tool](#) and [Employee Screening Tool – FIT FOR DUTY](#) have been revised to include vaccination information.

### **Mom's Vaccinated: WHEN CAN I VISIT HER NURSING HOME?**

COVID-19 vaccination is an important step toward protecting residents' health, achieving herd immunity and returning to normal life. Both CMS and CDC recognize the importance of visiting relatives as part of staying healthy. CMS's ["Mom's vaccinated: WHEN CAN I VISIT HER NURSING HOME?"](#) can be used to assist residents and families in the importance of getting vaccinated.