



Indiana
Department
of
Health

Long-term Care **NEWSLETTER**

LTC Newsletter 2021-23
April 30, 2021

CMS Updates:

- **QSO-20-38-NH Revised 04/27/2021—Interim Final Rule (IFC), Additional Policy & Regulatory Revisions in Response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency related to LTC Facility Testing Requirements and Revised COVID-19 Focused Survey Tool**
- **QSO-20-39-NH Revised 04/27/2021—Nursing Home Visitation - COVID-19**

QSO-20-38-NH Revised 04/27/2021—Interim Final Rule (IFC), Additional Policy & Regulatory Revisions in Response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency related to LTC Facility Testing Requirements and Revised COVID-19 Focused Survey Tool

On August 25, 2020, CMS published an interim final rule with comment period (IFC). This rule establishes **Long-term Care (LTC) Facility Testing Requirements for Staff and Residents**. Specifically, facilities are required to test residents and staff, including individuals providing services under arrangement and volunteers, for COVID-19 based on parameters set by the U.S Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary. This memorandum provides guidance for facilities to meet the new requirements. To assess compliance with the new testing requirements, CMS has revised the survey tool for surveyors (CMS-20054).

CMS has also added to the survey process the assessment of compliance with the requirements for facilities to designate one or more individual(s) as the infection preventionist(s) (IPs) who are responsible for the facility's infection prevention and control program (IPCP).

In addition, several revisions to the survey tool have been made to reflect other COVID-19 guidance updates.

[Survey/Infection Prevention, Control & Immunization Pathway \(CMS-20054\)](#)

Complete and detailed information: [QSO-20-38-NH Revised.pdf](#)

QSO-20-39-NH Revised 04/27/2021—Nursing Home Visitation - COVID-19

CMS, in conjunction with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), has updated visitation guidance with emphasis on the importance of maintaining infection prevention practices, given the continued risk of COVID-19 transmission. The new guidance includes the impact of COVID-19 vaccination.

Complete and detailed information: [QSO 20-39-NH Visitation REVISED.pdf](#)

PLEASE NOTE: The Indiana Department of Health's Long-term Care Toolkit is currently being updated to reflect the above information.