



Indiana
Department
of
Health

Long-term Care NEWSLETTER

LTC Newsletter 2023-08

April 14, 2023

LTC Update:

- **Communicable Disease Reporting Update**
- **CMS Memo QSO-23-10-NH: Strengthened Enhanced Enforcement for Infection Control Deficiencies and Quality Improvement Activities in Nursing Homes**
- **Minimum Data Set (MDS) Updates**
- **Life Safety Code Reminder**
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Communicable Disease Reporting Update

The Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) has announced changes to Indiana's Communicable Disease (CD) administrative rule (410 IAC), including streamlined timeframes for reporting and updates to reportable diseases. Indiana Code section 16-41-2-1 was amended in 2019 and allows the IDOH to publish and update the list of reportable communicable diseases and control measures on the IDOH website instead of in the administrative rules. Additional reporting guidance documents were created to help clarify reporting requirements.

The attached documents cover these changes in greater detail:

1. [Indiana Reportable Disease List for Healthcare Providers and Hospitals](#)
2. [Indiana Reportable Result Pathogen List for Laboratories](#)
3. [Summary of CDR Changes](#)
4. [Communicable Disease Reporting Changes FAQ](#)

All communicable disease reporting changes highlighted below went into effect on April 1.

Key Updates

- The reporting timeframes have been streamlined to two options: immediately and within one working day. The number of immediately reportable diseases has decreased.
- The reportable disease list has been removed from the Indiana Communicable Disease (CD) administrative rule and now exists in a separate document that can be found on the IDOH website. Additional resources have been created and added to the IDOH website as well, including a frequently asked questions document and disease-specific guidance documents for most reportable diseases. These documents clarify specific reporting requirements for each disease, such as how to report, which sections of the morbidity report to complete, and what additional documentation to include. These documents are posted in the Infectious Disease Epidemiology & Prevention Division (IDEPD) section of the IDOH website and will be updated as needed.
- For the most up-to-date information regarding communicable disease reporting, including the aforementioned resources, please visit the [IDEPD section of the IDOH website](#). Future communicable disease list updates will be released on Jan. 1 every year.

CMS Memo QSO-23-10-NH: Strengthened Enhanced Enforcement for Infection Control Deficiencies and Quality Improvement Activities in Nursing Homes

CMS has rescinded memorandum QSO-20-31-ALL, the Enhanced Enforcement for Infection Control Deficiencies, and replaced it with memorandum [QSO-23-10-NH](#), revised guidance for Strengthened Enhanced Enforcement for Infection Control Deficiencies. This revised guidance strengthens enforcement efforts for noncompliance with infection control deficiencies. The enhanced enforcement actions are more stringent for infection control deficiencies that result in actual harm or immediate jeopardy to residents. In addition, the criteria for enhanced enforcement on infection control deficiencies that result in no resident harm has been expanded to include enforcement on noncompliance with Infection Prevention and Control (F880) combined with COVID-19 Vaccine Immunization Requirements for Residents and Staff (F887).

Minimum Data Set (MDS) Updates

The final Minimum Data Set (MDS) 3.0 Item Sets version v1.18.11 are now available in the Downloads section on the [Minimum Data Set \(MDS\) 3.0 Resident Assessment Instrument \(RAI\) Manual](#) page. The MDS Item Sets v1.18.11 will be effective beginning Oct. 1.

Life Safety Code Reminder

Lamps with electrical receptacles in resident sleeping rooms may not be used as a substitute for fixed wiring. The electrical receptacle may not be available for use. The lamp may continue to be used if the electrical receptacle has been disabled and inoperable. LSC 19.5.1 requires utilities to comply with Section 9.1. LSC 9.1.2 requires electrical wiring and equipment to comply with NFPA 70, National Electrical Code, 2011 Edition. NFPA 70, Article 400.8 requires that, unless specifically permitted, flexible cords and cables shall not be used as a substitute for fixed wiring of a structure.

CMS Memo QSO-23-11-LSC: Categorical Waiver – Health Care Microgrid Systems (HCMSs)

As stated in CMS memo [QSO-23-11-LSC](#), CMS is issuing a categorical waiver permitting new and existing health care facilities subject to CMS requirements to utilize alternate sources of power other than a generator set or battery system only if in accordance with the 2021 edition of the NFPA 99, 2023 edition of the National Electric Code (NFPA 70), and associated references. The categorical waiver excludes long-term care (LTC) facilities that provide life support as the LTC requirements at 42 CFR 483.90(c)(2) requires these facilities to have an emergency generator without exception. Refer to the memo for specific information should a facility elect to use the categorical waiver for an HCMS.

Statewide NATCEP Waiver – Update

Although the statewide NATCEP waiver for Indiana was granted until March 29, CMS has provided clarification that all nursing aide training emergency waivers for states and facilities will end at the end of the PHE, which is expected on May 11. At that time, facilities will have four months (i.e., until Sept. 10) to have all nurse aides who are hired prior to the end of the PHE complete a state-approved NATCEP. Nurse aides hired after the end of the PHE will have up to four months from their date of hire to complete a state-approved NATCEP.

Project Firstline CNA Program Webinar Recording Available

If you missed the Project Firstline CNA Program webinar, you're in luck – the webinar was recorded.

What is Project Firstline:

Project Firstline provides an education platform that meets the needs of the diverse learning styles of healthcare workers in an innovative and accessible manner. This unique approach meets healthcare workers where they are in their knowledge base.

Watch the webinar recording for the following:

- Overview of Project Firstline and how this program offered by the Indiana Department of Health and the University of Indianapolis Center for Aging & Community can help you implement it

- Demonstration of this innovative and unique way to facilitate learning
- Opportunity to learn and participate in a dynamic approach of health equity in the understanding of infection control

What: Infection Control

When: Anytime

Time: At your earliest convenience

Recording Link: <https://tinyurl.com/yckr28tn>

Passcode: wZ+.JM22 (please note the period "." before the capital "J")

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