



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

# Long Term Care NEWSLETTER

Issue 2020-57  
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## LTC Update

- Updates to NHSN LTCF COVID-19 Module Resident Impact and Facility Capacity Pathway
- Flu Immunization for LTCF Staff
- LTCF Lab & EHR Vendor Survey
- Lilly Clinical Study Deployment Teams

## CMS Update

- QSO-20-37 CLIA, NH – Interim Final Rule (IFC), CMS-3401-IFC, Updating Requirements for Reporting of SARS-CoV-2 Test Results by Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendment of 1988 (CLIA) Laboratories, and Additional Policy and Regulatory Revisions in Response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency
- QSO-20-38-NH – Interim Final Rule (IFC), CMS-3401-IFC, Additional Policy and Regulatory Revisions in Response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency related to Long-Term Care (LTC) Facility Testing Requirements and Revised COVID – 19 Focused Survey Tool

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## Updates to NHSN LTCF COVID-19 Module Resident Impact and Facility Capacity Pathway

New questions have just been added to the NHSN LTCF COVID-19 Module *Resident Impact and Facility Capacity* pathway. These questions concern the availability and use of point-of-care testing within your LTCF, a capability that has taken on new importance under CMS's new testing regimen. The updated [data collection form](#) (new questions at the end), updated [form instructions](#), and CSV templates for facilities and groups are now posted to the [NHSN LTCF COVID-19 Module webpage](#).

NHSN has scheduled two identical webinars this week to discuss these updates and other questions with LTCF users. The dates/times are Tuesday, September 1 or Thursday, September 3 from 1:00-2:00 ET. You can register at the [NHSN LTCF COVID-19 Module webpage](#), but space is limited so register early. Questions on the updates or the webinars should be emailed to the

NHSN Helpdesk at [NHSN@cdc.gov](mailto:NHSN@cdc.gov) with 'LTCF' in the subject line.

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## Flu Immunization for LTCF Staff

This year, it's more important than ever that LTCFs make sure all staffers are immunized against influenza. Flu immunizations for staff are required by Indiana law (IC 16-28-14.5-2) and are vital in the effort to keep residents and staff safe during the fight against COVID-19. Each LTCF therefore should have policies mandating influenza immunizations for all staff, and make sure that flu immunization is a clear part of its ongoing infection control program.

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## LTCF Lab & EHR Vendor Survey

This week, the Indiana Department of Health is asking LTCFs to respond to a very short Lab & EHR (Electronic Health Record) Vendor Survey. The purpose of this survey is to expediently gather the information necessary to capture all pertinent laboratory tests, and enable us to enter conversations with the right vendors surrounding EHR system interoperability. The survey includes the following questions:

- Do you have an electronic health record (EHR) system? If so, who is your vendor?
- What lab facility do you work with to obtain results of tests on your residents and staff?

Please respond to the Lab & EHR Vendor Survey [HERE](#) no later than 12:00 noon on Friday, September 11, 2020. This survey is important, so we will be sending email reminders and added information to facilities in the coming days. Thanks, in advance, for your cooperation.

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## Lilly Clinical Study Deployment Teams

The Indiana Department of Health is aware that Eli Lilly will be deploying with their clinical study teams to long term care facilities with COVID-19 patients. At times, they may be there the same day as a state health department survey team. If that happens, the teams will work separately and with the least possible interruption to your residents and staff. Please reach out to the state health department if you have any questions.

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## QSO-20-37 CLIA, NH - Interim Final Rule (IFC), CMS 3401-IFC, Updating Requirements for Reporting of SARS-CoV-2 Test Results by Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendment of

## 1988 (CLIA) Laboratories, and Additional Policy and Regulatory Revisions in Response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is committed to taking critical steps to ensure America's healthcare facilities are prepared to respond to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Public Health Emergency (PHE).

- Long Term Care (LTC) Enforcement requirements at 42 CFR part 488 have been revised to include requirements specific to the imposition of a CMP for nursing homes that fail to report requisite COVID-19 related data to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) per 483.80(g)(1) and (2).
- LTC Facility Testing Requirements for Staff and Residents – Facilities are required to test staff and to offer testing to all nursing home residents.

Complete Information Available: [QSO-20-37 CLIA, NH - Interim Final Rule \(IFC\), CMS 3401-IFC, Updating Requirements for Reporting of SARS-CoV-2 Test Results by Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendment of 1988 \(CLIA\) Laboratories, and Additional Policy and Regulatory Revisions in Response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency](#)

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## QSO-20-38-NH – Interim Final Rule (IFC), CMS 3401-IFC, Additional Policy and Regulatory Revisions in Response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency related to Long-Term Care (LTC) Facility Testing Requirements and Revised COVID-19 Focused Survey Tool

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is committed to taking critical steps to ensure America's healthcare facilities are prepared to respond to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Public Health Emergency (PHE).

- 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 forth by the HHS Secretary. This memorandum provides guidance for facilities to meet the new requirements.
- **Revised COVID-19 Focused Survey Tool** – To assess compliance with the new testing requirements, CMS has revised the survey tool for surveyors. CMS is also adding to the survey process the assessment of compliance with the requirements for facilities to designate one or more individual(s) as infection preventionist(s) (IPs) who are responsible for the facility's infection prevention and control program (IPCP) at 42 CFR 483.80(b). In addition, CMS is making a number of revisions to the survey tool to reflect other COVID-19 guidance

updates.

Complete Information Available: [QSO-20-38-NH – Interim Final Rule \(IFC\), CMS 3401-IFC, Additional Policy and Regulatory Revisions in Response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency related to Long-Term Care \(LTC\) Facility Testing Requirements and Revised COVID-19 Focused Survey Tool](#)