



Indiana State  
Department of Health

# LONG TERM CARE NEWSLETTER

**ISDH Long Term Care Newsletter**  
**Issue 2020-48**  
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**Today's Issue:**

- **Long Term Care Update**
  - **Indiana Back on Track Plan for Long Term Care Facilities**
  - **Guidance for Personal Services in Long Term Care**
- **NHSN Reporting Problems, Tags, and Penalties**

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## Long Term Care Update

The Indiana State Department of Health has issued the following guidelines for both comprehensive care facilities (nursing homes) and residential care facilities (licensed assisted living).

Complete guidelines:

[Indiana Back on Track Plan for Long Term Care Facilities](#)  
[Guidance for Personal Services in Long Term Care](#)

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## NHSN Reporting Problems, Tags, and Penalties

The Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) is aware that CMS is issuing F-tags and civil money penalties (CMPs) to facilities for failing to report COVID-19 information to the CDC's National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN). We know that many of these are unwarranted because facilities have tried to report as required – but, through no fault of their own, have been unable to connect, or had their input rejected, or gotten no technical assistance from NHSN.

ISDH has discussed these problems with CMS Chicago, and argued against the imposition of these sanctions for a number of reasons. After discussions, and based on information conveyed by CMS Chicago, ISDH recommends as follows regarding NHSN reporting:

- Try daily to connect and report to NSHN, even if the result is always failure. Also try to get technical help from NHSN for each failure.
- Keep very good records of your attempts and failures to connect, report, and get technical assistance. Documentation is vital.
- When you receive a CMP and/or an F-tag, submit the matter to independent informal dispute resolution (IIDR) within the time allowed. (We suggest you submit a separate IIDR request for each 2567, even if supporting information is the same.) Describe in detail how you tried to report and what problems thwarted you. Attach records to document your efforts and difficulties, and ask for removal of both the CMPs and F-tags.

CMS Chicago has assured ISDH that it will review all reporting IIDR requests fairly and with keen awareness that the NHSN problem runs nationwide. If you wish, send a PDF of your IIDR submission to Nancy Adams at [nadams1@isdh.in.gov](mailto:nadams1@isdh.in.gov) or Suzanne Williams at [suwilliams@isdh.in.gov](mailto:suwilliams@isdh.in.gov). In some cases, ISDH may be able to lend further support – especially for facilities that have faithfully reported COVID-19 cases to ISDH through EM Resources or RedCap.