Welcome Nursing Facility Providers!

COVID-19 Updates and Q&A with LTC Regulation and DSHS
June 18, 2020

For more information:
Email: PolicyRulesTraining@hhsc.state.tx.us
Phone: 512-438-3161
COVID-19 Q&A

Panelist

Cecilia Cavuto, MSML NF, ICF & LSC Policy and Rule Manager Policy, Rules and Training Long-term Care Regulation

• Introduction and overview
• Reminders and updates
• COVID-19 Response for Nursing Facilities
Reminder

Local Health Departments

Please stay in contact with your Local Health Department for any COVID-19 related events at your facility.

• They help with response and testing strategies
Reminder – CDC Reporting

Requirements for Notification of Confirmed and Suspected COVID-19 Cases Among Residents and Staff in Nursing Homes: CMS QSO 20-29-NH

Reminder that per CMS, NFs must report COVID-19 information weekly to the CDC’s National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN).

NFs must also inform residents, their representatives, and families by 5 p.m. the next calendar day following either a single confirmed infection of COVID-19, or three or more residents or staff with new-onset of respiratory symptoms occurring within 72 hours of each other.
Reminder – CDC Reporting

Continued: CMS QSO 20-29-NH

- Failure to report in accordance with these requirements can result in an enforcement action cited at F884 and F885.

- CMS is now citing for this

- CMS will use the CASPER Shared folders to communicate findings of noncompliance with the requirement to report as required. You will not receive a notice if you are found in compliance.
Reminder – CMS Reporting

Continued: CMS QSO 20-29-NH

• Questions about the QSO should be directed to NH_COVID_Data@cms.hhs.gov

• Questions about the NHSN system and enrollment should be directed to NHSN@cdc.gov
PPE Infection Control Basics Webinar

The webinar emphasizes how to prevent or minimize the spread of infectious disease by using PPE. During this webinar you will:

• Review standard and transmission-based precautions
• Learn proper hand hygiene techniques
• Demonstrate how to utilize PPE
• Discuss the importance of social distancing in an outbreak situation

• June 26: 8:30 a.m.
  Register for the webinar here.
Emergency Preparedness for LTC Facilities – Webinar

The webinar will help providers prepare for hurricane season and other emergencies and includes COVID-19 considerations.

- Monday, June 22\textsuperscript{nd}: 1 - 4:30 p.m.  
  Register here
- Tuesday, June 23\textsuperscript{rd}: 1 - 4:30 p.m.  
  Register here
Updates

Reopening Plans

We are actively working on plans to ease some of these current restrictions related to visitors and group activities in phases, while still prioritizing safety. While we don’t have a definite date at this time, we expect the first level of guidance to be published in the coming weeks.
COVID-19 Q&A

Panelist

Michelle Dionne-Vahalik, DNP, RN
Associate Commissioner
Long-term Care Regulation

• Updates
COVID-19 Q&A

Panelist

Renee Blanch-Haley, BSN, RN
Director of Survey Operations
Long-term Care Regulation

• Updates
• Additional information from CMS
CDC Reporting

Additional information from CMS: CMS QSO 20-29-NH
COVID-19 Q&A

Panelist

David Gruber
Associate Commissioner for Regional and Local Health Operations
DSHS

• Updates
COVID-19 Q&A

What is considered close contact in a Nursing Facility (NF)?

• CDC defines close contact in the community as:
  ➢ A close contact is defined as someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to positive specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated.


• CDC defines close contact in a healthcare setting as:
  ➢ being within 6 feet of a person with confirmed COVID-19
  ➢ (or) having unprotected direct contact with infectious secretions or excretions of the person with confirmed COVID-19 (e.g., being coughed on)

COVID-19 Q&A

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Cecilia Cavuto, MSML
NF, ICF & LSC Policy and Rule Manager
Policy, Rules and Training
Long-term Care Regulation

• Questions and Answers from the week
COVID-19 Q&A

Question:
How should we handle Resident Council meetings with the guidance from CMS to cancel group activities?

Response:
QSO 20-28-NH refers back to QSO 20-14-NH and states, “there should be no group activities occurring outside or inside of the building, due to the risk of transmission.” NFs should encourage and assist residents in holding virtual council meetings while these restrictions are in place.
COVID-19 Q&A

**Question:**
Clarification: Are new and re-admits considered to be suspected of having COVID-19 during their 14 day quarantine, and do staff have to wear an N95 mask when caring for them?

**Response:**
New and re-admitted residents are considered to have unknown COVID-19 status. Per DSHS, a person with “unknown COVID-19 status” is defined as someone who has not been diagnosed with COVID-19, but may have been exposed, especially during times of localized or widespread COVID-19 transmission within the facility or community from where the patient is transferring, and could therefore be within the incubation phase of the infection.

Contd.
COVID-19 Q&A

Contd. Response:

**CDC guidance** is for NFs to create a plan for managing new admissions and readmissions whose **COVID-19 status is unknown** and states:

“All **recommended COVID-19 PPE** should be worn during care of residents under observation, which includes use of an N95 or higher-level respirator (or facemask if a respirator is not available), eye protection (i.e., goggles or a disposable face shield that covers the front and sides of the face), gloves, and gown.”
Questions?

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