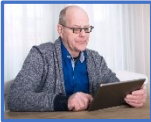




FOCUS POINT NEWSLETTER FOCUS POINT COVID ALERT 5/1/2020



CMP Application for Communicative Technology Requests

CMS has authorized state Medicaid agencies to release CMP funds to be used to assist certified nursing facility eligible to receive Medicaid funding in an effort to reduce isolation. Primarily through video chat. Funds are limited to \$3,000 per community, with a ratio of one tablet for every seven to ten residents.

Additionally, the nursing facility must have a sufficient level of internet connectivity throughout your community. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for State Medicaid Agencies --

<https://files.constantcontact.com/42b10fc8001/64c079b8-0be2-499b-a2ed-828458661c22.pdf>. The Communicative Technology Request [Application Form] may be downloaded at:

<https://files.constantcontact.com/42b10fc8001/43199478-6dd3-4514-a1e7-755f6f536c34.pdf>

Virginia nursing facilities should submit the application to: Courtney Richter, CMP Program Analyst, Division of Aging and Disability Services, Department of Medical Assistance Services, 600 East Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23219 Phone: (804) 225-4218 or Email: Courtney.Richter@dmas.virginia.gov A listing of other state contacts may be found at:

<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/cmp-contacts-state-12-20-2019.pdf>



CMS Announces Independent Commission to Address Safety and Quality in Nursing

Homes - Commission will comprehensively examine best practices in responding to COVID-19 in nursing homes. Additionally, the Commission will focus on identifying potentially innovative

approaches to using nursing home data to allow for better coordination between federal surveyors, state and local entities, and nursing homes to address the current spread of COVID-19 in nursing homes. The Commission will also use data to assess efforts across the country to stop or contain the virus within these facilities. Additional information related to the Commission will be available soon. The full news release can be found at:

<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/coronavirus-commission-safety-and-quality-nursing-homes.pdf>.

Revision for 483.80 [Infection Control] - On 4/30/2020, CMS issued an interim final rule with comment period which revises § 483.80 [Infection Control] establishing explicit reporting requirements for long-term care facilities to report information related to COVID-19 cases among facility residents and staff. These reporting requirements are applicable on the effective date of this interim final rule which is the date of the publication at the Office of the Federal Register [*stay tuned for the date*]. The full document may be downloaded at: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/covid-medicare-and-medicaid-ifc2.pdf>. The document is 279 pages and contains much information not related to this specific new guidance for nursing facilities, so it may be best to search for 483.80 to find the specific guidance. Under this new requirement nursing facilities must:

Electronically Report to CDC's National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN)

- Electronically report information about COVID-19 in a standardized format specified by the Secretary, which will rely on CDC NHSN portal that went live on Wednesday, April 29 with the new [LTCF COVID-19 module](#). This report to CDC must include, but is not limited to:
 - Suspected and confirmed COVID-19 infections among residents and staff, including residents previously treated for COVID-19;
 - Total deaths and COVID-19 deaths among residents and staff;
 - Personal protective equipment and hand hygiene supplies in the facility;
 - Ventilator capacity and supplies in the facility;
 - Resident beds and census;
 - Access to COVID-19 testing while the resident is in the facility;
 - Staffing shortages; and
 - Other information specified by the Secretary.

- Provide the information specified in the list above at a frequency specified by the Secretary, but no less than weekly to NHSN.
- This information will be posted publicly by CMS to support protecting the health and safety of residents, personnel, and the general public.

Inform Residents, their Representatives, and Families

- Inform residents, their representatives, and families of those residing in facilities by 5 p.m. the next calendar day following the occurrence of:
 - 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.
- This information must:
 - Not include personally identifiable information;
 - Include information on mitigating actions implemented to prevent or reduce the risk of transmission, including if normal operations of the facility will be altered; and
 - Include any cumulative updates for residents, their representatives, and families at least weekly or by 5 p.m. the next calendar day following the subsequent occurrence of either:
 - Each time a confirmed infection of COVID-19 is identified, or
 - Whenever three or more residents or staff with new onset of respiratory symptoms occur within 72 hours of each other.

The preamble to the rule states that facilities are not expected to make individual calls. Providers may use general communication platforms easily available to residents, representatives and families such as listservs, website postings, and recorded telephone messages.



LTCF COVID-19 Module

CDC's NHSN provides healthcare facilities, such as long term care facilities (LTCF) with a customized system to track infections and prevention process measures in a systematic way.

Tracking this information allows facilities to identify problems, improve care, and determine progress toward facility and national healthcare-associated infection goals.

The [NHSN Long-term Care Facility Component](#) is supporting the nation's COVID-19 response by introducing a new COVID-19 Module for Long Term Care Facilities. Facilities eligible to report into the COVID-19 Module include nursing homes/skilled nursing, long-term care for the developmentally disabled, and assisted living facilities.

The COVID-19 Module for LTCFs consists of four pathways within NHSN's Long-term Care Facility Component:

- Resident Impact and Facility Capacity
- Staff and Personnel Impact
- Supplies and Personal Protective Equipment
- Ventilator Capacity and Supplies

The Module enables an assessment of the impact of COVID-19 in LTCFs through facility reported information, including: 1) counts of residents and facility personnel with suspected and laboratory positive COVID-19; 2) counts of suspected and laboratory positive COVID-19 related deaths among residents and facility personnel; 3) staffing shortages; 3) status of personal protective equipment (PPE) supplies; and 4) ventilator capacity and supplies for facilities with ventilator dependent units. The Module does not collect staff or resident-level information.

Participation in the COVID-19 Module for LTCFs requires facilities to be actively enrolled in NHSN. LTCFs that are currently enrolled in NHSN's LTCF Component have immediate access to the new module and may begin reporting. If your facility previously enrolled, but is no longer able to gain access, contact NHSN user support at nhsn@cdc.gov for assistance. Please do not re-enroll a previously enrolled facility.

LTCFs that are not enrolled in NHSN may gain access to the COVID-19 Module by completing the enrollment process outlined in the Enrollment section of this page. Upon completion, the facility will gain same-day access to NHSN.

While daily reporting will provide the timeliest data for response purposes, retrospective reporting of prior day(s) is encouraged if daily reporting is not feasible. LTCF data submission options include manual entry, CSV file submitted by individual facilities or bulk CSV file upload for multiple facilities. NHSN, in turn, will enable state and local health departments and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to gain immediate access to the COVID-19 data for LTCFs in their jurisdictions. COVID-19 data submitted to NHSN also will be used by CDC's emergency COVID-19

response and by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS') COVID-19 tracking system maintained in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Preparedness and Response.

NHSN LTCF staff will conduct various virtual trainings and office hour sessions to assist LTCFs with enrollment and data submission. Please see the training schedule for upcoming trainings:

Topic: COVID-19 Module for Long-term Care Facilities Enrollment Guidance

When: May 4, 2020

Time: 2:00 – 3:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://cdc.zoomgov.com/j/1615094052?pwd=MS9CTFFPNEVDUThqWXJ6NFIKTFpRUT09>external icon

Password: 385978

Or iPhone one-tap:

US: +16692545252,,1615094052#,,#385978# or +16468287666,,1615094052#,,#385978#

Or Telephone:

Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 669 254 5252 or +1 646 828 7666

Webinar ID: 161 509 4052

Password: 385978

Please note that links are **available only during the date and time of the event.**

Topic: COVID-19 Module Overview for Long-term Care Facilities

When: May 5, 2020

Time: 3:00 – 4:30 PM EST

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://cdc.zoomgov.com/j/1602548824?pwd=ZjNVcEJib0tvZzB4UlpOZjQva0t0UT09>external icon

Password: 339263

Or iPhone one-tap:

US: +16692545252,,1602548824#,,#339263# or +16468287666,,1602548824#,,#339263#

Or Telephone:

Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

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