



Survey Binder Checklist: COVID-19 Focused Survey for Nursing Homes

On March 13, 2020, President Trump declared a national emergency as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. In response to the emergency declaration, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released a [Quality, Safety, and Oversight \(QSO\) memo](#) on May 6, 2020, explaining that enforcement activities would be re-prioritized until further notice. Among the types of surveys for nursing homes that will be conducted during the re-prioritization period is the Focused Infection Control Survey. CMS initiated this new process to ensure providers are implementing actions, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, to protect the health and safety of residents.

The QSO memo included a copy of the COVID-19 Focused Infection Control Survey checklist tool not only to assist facilities in preparation and development of protocols to keep residents safe amidst the pandemic, but also to streamline the survey process insofar as is possible. CMS expects facilities to use this new CMS tool, in conjunction with the latest guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), to **perform a voluntary self-assessment** of their ability to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 and to manage an outbreak should one occur. Regardless of the reason for the survey, a surveyor may request the results of the self-assessment.

The nine areas of the Focused Infection Control Survey identify priorities for facility self-assessment:

1. General Standard Precautions
 - a. Hand Hygiene
 - b. Use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
 - c. Transmission-Based Precautions
2. Resident Care (including resident placement)
3. Infection Prevention and Control Program Standards, Policies, and Procedures
4. Infection Surveillance
5. Visitor Entry
6. Education, Monitoring, and Screening of Staff
7. Reporting to Residents, Representatives, and Families F885
8. Reporting to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) F884 – Performed Off-Site by CMS
9. Emergency Preparedness - Staffing in Emergencies

Directions: The Survey Binder Checklist: COVID-19 Focused Survey for Nursing Homes is intended to assist the facility with collecting and organizing the appropriate information into a binder that can be presented to the surveyor. The presentation of an orderly binder that reflects sound practice and documents compliance with COVID-19 survey expectations expedites and aids a successful infection control survey. Below is a list of documents the facility should have ready in a binder for each section of the Focused Infection Control Survey. The facility should determine their own process for updating this binder. A blank action plan for managing updates, as well as CMS's COVID-19 Entrance Conference Worksheet and CMS's COVID-19 Focused Survey for Nursing Homes, are included following the binder checklist.

Upon Entrance

Facility census

Alphabetical list of residents and room numbers (note any residents currently out of the facility)

Copy of the floor plan, if changes have been made

List of residents with confirmed or presumptive COVID-19

Name of facility staff responsible for Infection Prevention and Control Program

Working schedules for licensed and registered nursing staff for the survey time period

List of key personnel, location, and phone numbers, as well as contract staff – include staff member responsible for notifying residents, representatives, and families of confirmed or suspected COVID-19 cases in the facility

Infection Prevention and Control Program policies and procedures, including surveillance plan

Emergency Preparedness policy and procedure, including emergency staffing strategies

Directions on where and how to access electronic health records (EHR)

The facility's mechanism(s) used to inform residents, their representatives, and families of confirmed or suspected COVID-19 activity in the facility and mitigating actions taken by the facility to prevent or reduce the risk of transmission, including if normal operations in the nursing home will be altered (e.g., supply the newsletter, email, website, etc.). If the system is dependent on the resident or representative to obtain the information themselves (e.g. website), provide the notification/information given to residents, their representatives, and families informing them of how to obtain updates. Ensure that the copy of the notification includes the date it was provided to external parties.

Facilities can also utilize the COVID-19 Entrance Conference Worksheet from CMS to ensure compliance for the information required within one hour of entrance.

Section 1 – Standard and Transmission-Based Precautions

Copy of protocols for cleaning and disinfecting rooms and equipment

Current inventory of PPE; if low or out of PPE, include documentation to show what the facility has done to try to obtain the necessary supplies

Copy of latest [PPE burn rate calculation](#) (complete on a weekly basis)

Education and staff sign-in sheets regarding infection control policies, which should include but are not limited to handwashing, transmission-based precautions, cleaning and disinfection, and appropriate PPE use—specifically, when to use PPE, how to don and doff PPE, extended use protocols, and disposal

- [AAPACN Hand Hygiene Competency Tool](#)
- [CDC video on Handwashing](#)
- [CDC's PPE Sequence for Putting on PPE](#)

Section 2 – Resident Care

List of residents with COVID-19 diagnosis (presumptive and test confirmed)

List of residents who leave their rooms for necessary procedures such as dialysis

Copy of medical record audit confirming a resident's use of PPE when they leave their room

Copy of medical record audit confirming EMS and the receiving facility was notified of a resident's status in suspected or tested-positive COVID-19 cases

Activity calendar reflecting the implementation of social distancing and other appropriate infection control and prevention protocols to avoid spread

Section 3 – Infection Standards, Policies, and Procedures

Policy and procedure for notification of local/state public health officials when there are clusters of respiratory illness or cases of COVID-19 that are identified or expected in the facility

Facility-wide plan that includes standards, policies, and procedures that are current and based on national standards for undiagnosed respiratory illness and COVID-19

Section 4 – Infection Surveillance

List of residents and employees with signs and symptoms related to COVID-19

List of residents and employees with diagnosis of COVID-19

Date of first confirmed COVID-19 case

List of residents and staff that have been tested for COVID-19

Protocol for when someone should be tested for COVID-19

Copy of a surveillance plan, which was established based on the facility assessment and later implemented, for screening, tracking, monitoring, and/or reporting fever, and isolating those who are symptomatic immediately; the plan must include:

Early detection and management of a potentially-infectious, symptomatic resident who may require laboratory testing and/or transmission-based precautions or PPE (the plan may include tracking this information in an infectious disease log)

Up-to-date surveillance logs

Copy of policies/protocols for:

Communicating the diagnosis, treatment, and laboratory test results when transferring a resident to an acute care hospital or other healthcare provider

Obtaining pertinent notes, such as discharge summary, lab results, current diagnoses, and infection or multidrug-resistant organism colonization status when residents are transferred back from acute care hospitals

Use AAPACN's [COVID-19 Healthcare Personnel \(HCP\) Screening Form](#), [Healthcare Personnel \(HCP\) Surveillance Record for COVID-19 tool](#), and [Resident Surveillance Record for COVID-19 tool](#) to assist with data collection needed for this section.

Section 5 – Visitor Entry

Copy of visitor screening protocol

Copy of signage that is posted regarding monitoring for those permitted entry

Copy of visitor restriction criteria

Copy of instructions for visitors such as hand hygiene, limited interactions, PPE, etc.

Note: The term “visitors” for this section includes any non-staff, non-resident people who are permitted entry, including contract visitors such as hospice, lab, etc.

Section 6 – Education, Screening, and Monitoring of Staff

Copy of education materials/handouts and sign-in sheets for all COVID-19 specific topics, which should include: symptoms, how it is transmitted, screening criteria, and work exclusions

Copy of materials/handouts and sign-in sheets for infection control education, which should include but is not limited to: handwashing, transmission-based precautions, cleaning and disinfection, and appropriate PPE use

Copies of updates to procedures, as well as the ability to explain how these updates are conveyed to staff

Staff surveillance records (copies of daily screening and surveillance of staff; see the AAPACN tools listed in Section 4 – Infection Surveillance to help collect this information)

Copy of return to work criteria, based on current CDC guidance

- If facility is utilizing the [AAPACN COVID-19 Return to Work Criteria for Healthcare Personnel](#), CDC guidance for return to work is included on the tool
- CDC return to work guidance can also be found on the [CDC website](#)

Section 7 – Reporting to Residents, Representatives, and Families F885

Copy of policy regarding COVID-19 notification

Copies of all documentation/website updates utilized to inform residents, representatives, and families by 5 pm the next calendar day following the occurrence of:

- A single confirmed COVID-19 case
- Three or more residents or staff with new onset of respiratory symptoms that occurred within 72 hours of each other

Documentation that shows:

- Mitigating actions taken by the facility to prevent or reduce the risk of transmission, including if normal operations in the nursing home will be altered (e.g. restrictions to visitors, altered activities); and
- Cumulative updates to residents, representatives, and families at least weekly or by 5 pm the next calendar day following the subsequent occurrence of either: one confirmed COVID-19 case, or when three or more residents or staff with new onset of respiratory symptoms occur within 72 hours of each other.

Records from an audit of residents, representatives, and family members to confirm they are receiving notifications

Section 8 – Reporting to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) F884 – Performed Off-Site by CMS

Copies of weekly data reported to the CDC through the NHSN database

Section 9 – Emergency Preparedness – Staffing in Emergencies

Copy of emergency preparedness plan, including how the facility plans to ensure sufficient staffing during an emergency

Documentation of how the plan was implemented related to COVID-19, if applicable

Resources

[AAPACN's Coronavirus Updates and Essential Resources for LTPAC Webpage](#)

[CMS's COVID-19 LTC-Surveyor Training Video](#)

[CDC Website](#)



INFORMATION NEEDED FROM THE FACILITY IMMEDIATELY UPON ENTRANCE*	
<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Census number
<input type="checkbox"/>	2. An alphabetical list of all residents and room numbers (note any resident out of the facility).
<input type="checkbox"/>	3. A list of residents who are confirmed or suspected cases of COVID-19.
<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Name of facility staff responsible for Infection Prevention and Control Program.
<input type="checkbox"/>	5. Conduct a brief Entrance Conference with the Administrator.
<input type="checkbox"/>	6. Signs announcing the survey that are posted in high-visibility areas.
<input type="checkbox"/>	7. A copy of an updated facility floor plan, if changes have been made.
<input type="checkbox"/>	8. The actual working schedules for licensed and registered nursing staff for the survey time period.
<input type="checkbox"/>	9. List of key personnel, location, and phone numbers. Note contract staff (e.g., rehab services). Also include the staff responsible for notifying all residents, representatives, and families of confirmed or suspected COVID-19 cases in the facility.
<input type="checkbox"/>	10. Provide each surveyor with access to all resident electronic health records – do not exclude any information that should be a part of the resident’s medical record. Provide specific information on how surveyors can access the EHRs outside of the conference room. Please complete the attached form on page 2 which is titled “Electronic Health Record Information.”
<input type="checkbox"/>	11. Explain that the goal is to conduct as much record review offsite as possible to limit potential exposure or transmission. Determine what information can be reviewed offsite, such as electronic medical records (EMRs), or other records and policies/procedures. If offsite review of EMRs is not possible, surveyors will request photocopies (that can be made by surveyors instead of facility staff). If the facility has an electronic health record (EHR) system that may be accessed remotely, request remote access to the EHR to review needed records for a limited period of time. If this is not an option, discuss with the facility the best options to get needed medical record information, such as fax, secure website, encrypted email, etc.
<input type="checkbox"/>	12. Facility Policies and Procedures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infection Prevention and Control Program Policies and Procedures, to include the Surveillance Plan. • Emergency Preparedness Policy and Procedure to include Emergency Staffing Strategies NOTE – A comprehensive review of policies should be completed offsite.
<input type="checkbox"/>	13. The facility’s mechanism(s) used to inform residents, their representatives, and families of confirmed or suspected COVID-19 activity in the facility and mitigating actions taken by the facility to prevent or reduce the risk of transmission, including if normal operations in the nursing home will be altered (e.g., supply the newsletter, email, website, etc.). If the system is dependent on the resident or representative to obtain the information themselves (e.g., website), provide the notification/information given to residents, their representatives, and families informing them of how to obtain updates.

***NOTE:** The timelines for requested information in the table are based on normal circumstances. Surveyors should be flexible on the time to receive information based on the conditions in the facility. For example, do not require paperwork within an hour if it interrupts critical activities that are occurring to prevent the transmission of COVID-19.

ENTRANCE CONFERENCE WORKSHEET ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD (EHR) INFORMATION

Please provide the following information to the survey team within one hour of Entrance.

Provide specific instructions on where and how surveyors can access the following information in the EHR (or	
1. Infections	
2. Hospitalization	
3. Change of condition	
4. Medications	
5. Diagnoses	

Please provide name and contact information for IT and back-up IT for questions:

IT Name and Contact Info: _____

Back-up IT Name and Contact Info: _____

COVID-19 Focused Survey for Nursing Homes

Infection Control

This survey tool must be used to investigate compliance at F880, **F884 (CMS Federal surveyors only)**, F885, and E0024. Surveyors must determine whether the facility is implementing proper infection prevention and control practices to prevent the development and transmission of COVID-19 and other communicable diseases and infections. Entry and screening procedures as well as resident care guidance has varied over the progression of COVID-19 transmission in facilities. Facilities are expected to be in compliance with CMS requirements and surveyors will use guidance that is in effect at the time of the survey. Refer to QSO memos released at: <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/SurveyCertificationGenInfo/Policy-and-Memos-to-States-and-Regions>.

This survey tool provides a focused review of the critical elements associated with the transmission of COVID-19, will help surveyors to prioritize survey activities while onsite, and identify those survey activities which can be accomplished offsite. These efficiencies will decrease the potential for transmission of COVID-19, as well as lessen disruptions to the facility and minimize exposure of the surveyor. Surveyors should be mindful to ensure their activities do not interfere with the active treatment or prevention of transmission of COVID-19.

If citing for noncompliance related to COVID-19, the surveyor(s) must include the following language at the beginning of the Deficient Practice Statement or other place determined appropriate on the Form CMS-2567: “Based on [observations/interviews/record review], the facility failed to [properly prevent and/or contain – or other appropriate statement] **COVID-19.**”

If surveyors see concerns related to compliance with other requirements, they should investigate them in accordance with the existing guidance in Appendix PP of the State Operations Manual and related survey instructions. Surveyors may also need to consider investigating concerns related to Emergency Preparedness in accordance with the guidance in Appendix Z of the State Operations Manual (e.g., for emergency staffing).

For the purpose of this survey tool, “staff” includes employees, consultants, contractors, volunteers, and others who provide care and services to residents on behalf of the facility. The Infection Prevention and Control Program (IPCP) must be facility-wide and include all departments and contracted services.

Critical Element #8 is only for consideration by CMS Federal Survey staff. Information to determine the facility’s compliance at F884 is only reported to each of the 10 CMS locations.

Surveyor(s) reviews for:

- The overall effectiveness of the Infection Prevention and Control Program (IPCP) including IPCP policies and procedures;
- Standard and Transmission-Based Precautions;
- Quality of resident care practices, including those with COVID-19 (laboratory-positive case), if applicable;
- The surveillance plan;

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- Visitor entry and facility screening practices;
- Education, monitoring, and screening practices of staff;
- Facility policies and procedures to address staffing issues during emergencies, such as transmission of COVID-19; and
- How the facility informs residents, their representatives, and families of suspected or confirmed COVID-19 cases in the facility.

1. Standard and Transmission-Based Precautions (TBPs)

CMS is aware that there is a scarcity of some supplies in certain areas of the country. State and Federal surveyors should not cite facilities for not having certain supplies (e.g., PPE such as gowns, N95 respirators, surgical masks) if they are having difficulty obtaining these supplies for reasons outside of their control. However, we do expect facilities to take actions to mitigate any resource shortages and show they are taking all appropriate steps to obtain the necessary supplies as soon as possible. For example, if there is a shortage of PPE (e.g., due to supplier(s) shortage which may be a regional or national issue), the facility should contact their health department or healthcare coalition for assistance (<https://www.phe.gov/Preparedness/planning/hpp/Pages/find-hc-coalition.aspx>), follow national and/or local guidelines for optimizing their current supply or identify the next best option to care for residents. Among other practices, optimizing their current supply may mean prioritizing use of gowns based on risk of exposure to infectious organisms, blood or body fluids, splashes or sprays, high contact procedures, or aerosol generating procedures (AGPs), as well as possibly extending use of PPE (follow national and/or local guidelines). Current CDC guidance for healthcare professionals is located at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/index.html> and healthcare facilities is located at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/healthcare-facilities/index.html>. Guidance on strategies for optimizing PPE supply is located at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/index.html>. If a surveyor believes a facility should be cited for not having or providing the necessary supplies, the State Agency should contact the CMS Regional Location.

General Standard Precautions:

Are staff performing the following appropriately:

- Respiratory hygiene/cough etiquette,
- Environmental cleaning and disinfection, and
- Reprocessing of reusable resident medical equipment (e.g., cleaning and disinfection of glucometers per device and disinfectant manufacturer's instructions for use)?

Hand Hygiene:

Are staff performing hand hygiene when indicated?

If alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) is available, is it readily accessible and preferentially used by staff for hand hygiene?

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- If there are shortages of ABHR, are staff performing hand hygiene using soap and water instead?
- Are staff washing hands with soap and water when their hands are visibly soiled (e.g., blood, body fluids)?
- Do staff perform hand hygiene (even if gloves are used) in the following situations:
 - Before and after contact with the resident;
 - After contact with blood, body fluids, or visibly contaminated surfaces;
 - After contact with objects and surfaces in the resident's environment;
 - After removing personal protective equipment (e.g., gloves, gown, facemask); and
 - Before performing a procedure such as an aseptic task (e.g., insertion of an invasive device such as a urinary catheter, manipulation of a central venous catheter, and/or dressing care)?
- When being assisted by staff, is resident hand hygiene performed after toileting and before meals?
- Interview appropriate staff to determine if hand hygiene supplies (e.g., ABHR, soap, paper towels) are readily available and who they contact for replacement supplies.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

- Determine if staff appropriately use PPE including, but not limited to, the following:
 - Gloves are worn if potential contact with blood or body fluid, mucous membranes, or non-intact skin;
 - Gloves are removed after contact with blood or body fluids, mucous membranes, or non-intact skin;
 - Gloves are changed and hand hygiene is performed before moving from a contaminated body site to a clean body site during resident care; and
 - An isolation gown is worn for direct resident contact if the resident has uncontained secretions or excretions.
- Is PPE appropriately removed and discarded after resident care, prior to leaving room (except in the case of extended use of PPE per national/local recommendations), followed by hand hygiene?
- If PPE use is extended/reused, is it done according to national and/or local guidelines? If it is reused, is it cleaned/decontaminated/maintained after and/or between uses?
- Interview appropriate staff to determine if PPE is available, accessible and used by staff.
 - Are there sufficient PPE supplies available to follow infection prevention and control guidelines? In the event of PPE shortages, what procedures is the facility taking to address this issue?
 - Do staff know how to obtain PPE supplies before providing care?
 - Do they know who to contact for replacement supplies?

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Transmission-Based Precautions (Note: PPE use is based on availability and latest CDC guidance. See note on Pages 1-2):

Determine if appropriate Transmission-Based Precautions are implemented:

- For a resident on Contact Precautions: staff don gloves and isolation gown before contact with the resident and/or his/her environment;
- For a resident on Droplet Precautions: staff don a facemask within six feet of a resident;
- For a resident on Airborne Precautions: staff don an N95 or higher level respirator prior to room entry of a resident;
- For a resident with an undiagnosed respiratory infection: staff follow Standard, Contact, and Droplet Precautions (i.e., facemask, gloves, isolation gown) with eye protection when caring for a resident unless the suspected diagnosis requires Airborne Precautions (e.g., tuberculosis);
- For a resident with known or suspected COVID-19: staff wear gloves, isolation gown, eye protection and an N95 or higher-level respirator if available. A facemask is an acceptable alternative if a respirator is not available. Additionally, if there are COVID-19 cases in the facility or sustained community transmission, staff implement universal use of facemasks while in the facility (based on availability). When COVID-19 is identified in the facility, staff wear all recommended PPE (i.e., gloves, gown, eye protection and respirator or facemask) for the care of all residents on the unit (or facility-wide based on the location of affected residents), regardless of symptoms (based on availability).
 - Some procedures performed on residents with known or suspected COVID-19 could generate infectious aerosols (i.e., aerosol-generating procedures (AGPs)). In particular, procedures that are likely to induce coughing (e.g., sputum induction, open suctioning of airways) should be performed cautiously. If performed, the following should occur:
 - Staff in the room should wear an N95 or higher-level respirator, eye protection, gloves, and an isolation gown.
 - The number of staff present during the procedure should be limited to only those essential for resident care and procedure support.
 - AGPs should ideally take place in an airborne infection isolation room (AIIR). If an AIIR is not available and the procedure is medically necessary, then it should take place in a private room with the door closed.
 - Clean and disinfect the room surfaces promptly and with appropriate disinfectant. Use disinfectants on List N of the EPA website for EPA-registered disinfectants that have qualified under EPA's emerging viral pathogens program for use against SARS-COV-2 or other national recommendations;
- Dedicated or disposable noncritical resident-care equipment (e.g., blood pressure cuffs, blood glucose monitor equipment) is used, or if not available, then equipment is cleaned and disinfected according to manufacturers' instructions using an EPA-registered disinfectant for healthcare setting prior to use on another resident;
- Objects and environmental surfaces that are touched frequently and in close proximity to the resident (e.g., bed rails, over-bed table, bedside commode, lavatory surfaces in resident bathrooms) are cleaned and disinfected with an EPA-registered disinfectant for healthcare setting (effective against the organism identified if known) at least daily and when visibly soiled; and
- Is signage on the use of specific PPE (for staff) posted in appropriate locations in the facility (e.g., outside of a resident's room, wing, or facility-wide)?

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- Interview appropriate staff to determine if they are aware of processes/protocols for Transmission-Based Precautions and how staff is monitored for compliance.
- If concerns are identified, expand the sample to include more residents on Transmission-Based Precautions.

1. Did staff implement appropriate Standard (e.g., hand hygiene, appropriate use of PPE, environmental cleaning and disinfection, and reprocessing of reusable resident medical equipment) and Transmission-Based Precautions (if applicable)? Yes No F880

2. Resident Care

- If there is sustained community transmission or case(s) of COVID-19 in the facility, is the facility restricting residents (to the extent possible) to their rooms except for medically necessary purposes? If there is a case in the facility, and residents have to leave their room, are they wearing a facemask, performing hand hygiene, limiting their movement in the facility, and performing social distancing (efforts are made to keep them at least 6 feet away from others). If PPE shortage is an issue, facemasks should be limited to residents diagnosed with or having signs/symptoms of respiratory illness or COVID-19.
- Has the facility cancelled group outings, group activities, and communal dining?
- Has the facility isolated residents with known or suspected COVID-19 in a private room (if available), or taken other actions based on national (e.g., CDC), state, or local public health authority recommendations?
- For the resident who develops severe symptoms of illness and requires transfer to a hospital for a higher level of care, did the facility alert emergency medical services and the receiving facility of the resident's diagnosis (suspected or confirmed COVID-19) and precautions to be taken by transferring and receiving staff as well as place a facemask on the resident during transfer (as supply allows)?
- For residents who need to leave the facility for care (e.g. dialysis, etc.), did the facility notify the transportation and receiving health care team of the resident's suspected or confirmed COVID-19 status?
- Does the facility have residents who must leave the facility regularly for medically necessary purposes (e.g., residents receiving hemodialysis and chemotherapy) wear a facemask (if available) whenever they leave their room, including for procedures outside of the facility?

2. Did staff provide appropriate resident care? Yes No F880

3. IPCP Standards, Policies and Procedures

- Did the facility establish a facility-wide IPCP including standards, policies, and procedures that are current and based on national standards for undiagnosed respiratory illness and COVID-19?

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Does the facility's policies or procedures include when to notify local/state public health officials if there are clusters of respiratory illness or cases of COVID-19 that are identified or suspected?

Concerns must be corroborated as applicable including the review of pertinent policies/procedures as necessary.

3. Does the facility have a facility-wide IPCP including standards, policies, and procedures that are current and based on national standards for undiagnosed respiratory illness and COVID-19? Yes No F880

4. Infection Surveillance

How many residents and staff in the facility have fever, respiratory signs/symptoms, or other signs/symptoms related to COVID-19?

How many residents and staff have been diagnosed with COVID-19 and when was the first case confirmed?

How many residents and staff have been tested for COVID-19? What is the protocol for determining when residents and staff should be tested?

Has the facility established/implemented a surveillance plan, based on a facility assessment, for identifying (i.e., screening), tracking, monitoring and/or reporting of fever (at a minimum, temperature is taken per shift), respiratory illness, and/or other signs/symptoms of COVID-19 and immediately isolate anyone who is symptomatic?

Does the plan include early detection, management of a potentially infectious, symptomatic resident that may require laboratory testing and/or Transmission-Based Precautions/PPE (the plan may include tracking this information in an infectious disease log)?

Does the facility have a process for communicating the diagnosis, treatment, and laboratory test results when transferring a resident to an acute care hospital or other healthcare provider; and obtaining pertinent notes such as discharge summary, lab results, current diagnoses, and infection or multidrug-resistant organism colonization status when residents are transferred back from acute care hospitals?

Can appropriate staff (e.g., nursing and unit managers) identify/describe the communication protocol with local/state public health officials?

Interview appropriate staff to determine if infection control concerns are identified, reported, and acted upon.

4. Did the facility provide appropriate infection surveillance? Yes No F880

5. Visitor Entry

Review for compliance of:

- Screening processes and criteria (i.e., screening questions and assessment of illness);
- Restriction criteria; and

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- Signage posted at facility entrances for screening and restrictions as well as a communication plan to alert visitors of new procedures/restrictions.
- For those permitted entry, are they instructed to frequently perform hand hygiene; limit their interactions with others in the facility and surfaces touched; restrict their visit to the resident's room or other location designated by the facility; and offered PPE (e.g., facemask) as supply allows? What is the facility's process for communicating this information?
- For those permitted entry, are they advised to monitor for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and appropriate actions to take if signs and/or symptoms occur?

5. Did the facility perform appropriate screening, restriction, and education of visitors? Yes No F880

6. Education, Monitoring, and Screening of Staff

- Is there evidence the facility has provided education to staff on COVID-19 (e.g., symptoms, how it is transmitted, screening criteria, work exclusions)?
- How does the facility convey updates on COVID-19 to all staff?
- Is the facility screening all staff at the beginning of their shift for fever and signs/symptoms of illness? Is the facility actively taking their temperature and documenting absence of illness (or signs/symptoms of COVID-19 as more information becomes available)?
- If staff develop symptoms at work (as stated above), does the facility:
- Place them in a facemask and have them return home;
 - Inform the facility's infection preventionist and include information on individuals, equipment, and locations the person came in contact with; and
 - Follow current guidance about returning to work (e.g., local health department, CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/healthcare-facilities/hcp-return-work.html>).

6. Did the facility provide appropriate education, monitoring, and screening of staff? Yes No F880

7. Reporting to Residents, Representatives, and Families

Identify the mechanism(s) the facility is using to inform residents, their representatives, and families (e.g., newsletter, email, website, recorded voice message)

- Did the facility inform all residents, their representatives, and families by 5 PM the next calendar day following the occurrence of a single confirmed COVID-19 infection or of three or more residents or staff with new onset of respiratory symptoms that occurred within 72 hours of each other?

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- Did the information include mitigating actions taken by the facility to prevent or reduce the risk of transmission, including if normal operations in the nursing home will be altered (e.g., restrictions to visitation or group activities)?
- Did the information include personally identifiable information?
- Is the facility providing cumulative updates to residents, their representatives, and families at least weekly or by 5 PM the next calendar day following the subsequent occurrence of either: each time a confirmed COVID-19 infection is identified, or whenever three or more residents or staff with new onset of respiratory symptoms occur within 72 hours of each other?
- Interview a resident and a resident representative or family member to determine whether they are receiving timely notifications.

7. Did the facility inform residents, their representatives, and families of suspected or confirmed COVID-19 cases in the facility along with mitigating actions in a timely manner? Yes No F885

8. Reporting to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) – Performed Offsite by CMS. For consideration by CMS Federal Surveyors only.

- Review CDC data files provided to CMS to determine if the facility is reporting at least once a week.
- Review data files to determine if all data elements required in the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) COVID-19 Module are completed.

8. Did the facility report at least once a week to CDC on all of the data elements required in the NHSN COVID-19 Module?

- Yes No F884

9. Emergency Preparedness – Staffing in Emergencies

- Policy development: Does the facility have a policy and procedure for ensuring staffing to meet the needs of the residents when needed during an emergency, such as COVID-19 outbreak?
- Policy implementation: In an emergency, did the facility implement its planned strategy for ensuring staffing to meet the needs of the residents? (N/A if an emergency staff was not needed).

9. Did the facility develop and implement policies and procedures for staffing strategies during an emergency?

- Yes No E0024 N/A

COVID-19 Focused Survey for Nursing Homes

Section 3087 of the 21st Century Cures Act, signed into law in December 2016, added subsection (f) to section 319 of the Public Health Service Act. This new subsection gives the HHS Secretary the authority to waive Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) (44 USC 3501 et seq.) requirements with respect to voluntary collection of information during a public health emergency (PHE), as declared by the Secretary, or when a disease or disorder is significantly likely to become a public health emergency (SLPHE). Under this new authority, the HHS Secretary may waive PRA requirements for the voluntary collection of information if the Secretary determines that: (1) a PHE exists according to section 319(a) of the PHS Act or determines that a disease or disorder, including a novel and emerging public health threat, is a SLPHE under section 319(f) of the PHS Act; and (2) the PHE/SLPHE, including the specific preparation for and response to it, necessitates a waiver of the PRA requirements. The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE) has been designated as the office that will coordinate the process for the Secretary to approve or reject each request.

The information collection requirements contained in this information collection request have been submitted and approved under a PRA Waiver granted by the Secretary of Health and Human Services. The waiver can be viewed at <https://aspe.hhs.gov/public-health-emergency-declaration-pra-waivers>.