



Indiana
Department
of
Health

Long-term Care NEWSLETTER

LTC Newsletter 2021-20

April 12, 2021

LTC Updates:

- Long-term Care Health Surveys—Resumption
- Civil Money Penalty Project Applications
- Travel Guidance for Healthcare Personnel—Clarification

CMS Update:

- QSO-21-17-NH Updates to the Long-term Care Emergency Regulatory Waivers Issued in Response to COVID-19

Long-term Care Health Surveys—Resumption

On April 12, 2021, the Indiana Department of Health, Division of Long-term Care will resume federal and state health surveys for both nursing homes and residential care facilities.

Nursing Home Facilities:

All surveyors have been updated with the [Long-term Care Survey Process \(LTCSP\) Procedure Guide](#) that was effective February 6, 2021. Surveyors will review facility information 12 months prior to the survey entrance date, unless there is a need related to complaint or other concerns that would require information past the 12-month time frame.

[CMS Information—Nursing Home Surveys](#)

Residential Facilities:

A new Residential Survey Procedure Guide will be available soon soon. The Residential Survey will include an infection control review. Watch for the final survey forms in a future newsletter.

Civil Money Penalty Project Applications

Applications for Communicative Technology (CT) and In-Person Visitation Aids (VA) are still being accepted. Approximately 430 facilities have been approved for the CT funds and 180 facilities have been approved for VA funds. Below are the instructions and application for these projects.

[Communicative Technology Application](#)

[In-Person Visitation Aids Application](#)

Email questions or completed applications to [Nancy Adams](#) or [Lisa Hensley](#).

Travel Guidance for Healthcare Personnel—Clarification

Travel is defined by the CDC as using public transportation both domestic and internationally.

Commuting to work is not considered in the travel guidance.

Behaviors for commuting, carpools, to and from work have always been a concern for COVID-19 outbreaks. Staff need to practice core principles of infection control outside of work, no matter what role they are in within the LTC community, due to the vulnerability of the residents and potential risks.

[Travel Guidance for Healthcare Personnel](#)

QSO-21-17-NH Update to Long-term Care Emergency Regulatory Waivers Issued in Response to COVID-19

CMS continues to review the need for existing waivers issued in response to the Public Health Emergency (PHE). Over the course of the PHE, nursing homes have developed policies or other practices that CMS believe mitigates the need for certain waivers.

- CMS is announcing the **ending of**:
 - The emergency blanket waiver related to notification of Resident Room or Roommate changes, and Transfer and Discharge notification requirements;
 - The emergency blanket waiver for certain care planning requirements for residents transferred or discharged for cohorting purposes.

- The emergency blanket waiver of the timeframe requirements for completing and transmitting resident assessment information (Minimum Data Set (MDS)).

This is effective May 10, 2021

- CMS is providing **clarification** and **recommendations** for Nurse Aide Training and Competency Evaluation Programs (NATCEPs). (**Not Ending**)

Complete and detailed information: [QSO-21-17-NH Updates to Long-term Care \(LTC\) Emergency Regulatory Waivers issued in response to COVID-19](#)