



Center for Clinical Standards and Quality/Quality, Safety, and Oversight Group

Ref: QSO 20-32-NH

DATE: June 4th, 2020
TO: State Officials and Nursing Home Stakeholders
FROM: Director
Quality Safety and Oversight Group
SUBJECT: Release of COVID-19 Nursing Home Data

Memorandum Summary

- *The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is committed* to taking critical steps to ensure America’s nursing homes are prepared to respond to the threat caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ***Nursing Home COVID-19 Information:*** CMS will post COVID-19 data submitted by facilities via the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN). The information will be posted on **June 4th, 2020** at the following locations:
 - A link to the information in the “Spotlight” section of the [Nursing Home Compare home page](#).
 - The information will also be available at <https://data.cms.gov/Covid19-nursing-home-data>

Background

Beginning on May 8th, 2020, nursing homes are required under 42 CFR §483.80(g) to report information related to the status of how COVID-19 is affecting their facility (see [QSO-20-29-NH](#)). Nursing homes are required to submit this data via the CDC’s National Health Safety Network (NHSN) COVID-19 Long Term Care Facility Module at least once every seven calendar days. Failure to report in accordance with 42 CFR § 483.80(g) can result in an enforcement action. Reporting COVID-19 data supports CMS commitment to protect the health and safety of residents, and is necessary to ensure the appropriate tracking, response, and mitigation of the spread and impact of COVID-19 on our most vulnerable citizens, the personnel who care for them, and the general public.

Posting Nursing Home COVID-19 Information

Consistent with CMS’ commitment to transparency, we will begin posting the reported COVID-19 NHSN data for viewing by nursing home residents and families, facilities, stakeholders, and the general public. The information posted will include each facility’s name, their reported number of confirmed and suspected cases of COVID-19 (including residents and staff), resident

deaths related to COVID-19, availability of personal protective equipment (PPE) and COVID-19 testing, and potential staffing shortages. For more details on the specific data elements collected, please view the CDC's [Long Term Care Facility COVID-19 Module](#) website.

The NHSN COVID-19 information will be posted on **June 4th, 2020**, on the [Nursing Home Compare home page](#), in the "Spotlight" section, and will be updated on a weekly basis. The information can also be accessed at <https://data.cms.gov/Covid19-nursing-home-data> starting on June 4th, 2020.

We note that the presence of cases of COVID-19 in a nursing home does not automatically indicate non-compliance with federal requirements. Also, since this is a new program, there are several limitations of the data. More information on these limitations is available through the links above. This information can be used to assist with national response to the COVID-19 pandemic in nursing homes, and support actions to protect the health and safety of nursing home residents.

Contact:

- Questions about this memorandum should be directed to NH_COVID_Data@cms.hhs.gov.
- Questions about the NHSN system and enrollment should be directed to NHSN@cdc.gov.

Effective Date: This policy is effective immediately, and should be communicated to all survey and certification staff, their managers, and the State/Regional Office training coordinators. CMS will communicate any changes or discontinuance of these policies through future memoranda.

/s/
David Wright