

CMS COVID-19 QSO - Regulatory Memos Timeline

ref 06.25.2020

MARCH

March 4, 2020 - (QSO-20-12-All) - [Suspension of Survey Activities](#)

March 4, 2020 - (QSO-20-14-NH) - [Guidance for Infection Control and Prevention of COVID-19 in NHs](#)

- Guidance for limiting the transmission of COVID-19 for nursing homes
- Other considerations for facilities

March 13, 2020 (Revised) - (QSO-20-14-NH) - [Guidance for Infection Control and Prevention of COVID-19 in NHs](#)

- Restriction of visitation nationwide
- Accepting COVID-19 patients from hospitals
- Transferring COVID-19 patients to hospitals

March 23, 2020 - (QSO-20-20All) - [Prioritization of Survey Activities](#)

APRIL

April 13, 2020 - (QSO-20-25-NH) - [LTCF Transfer Scenarios](#)

April 19, 2020 - (QSO-20-26-NH) - [Requirements for Notification of Confirmed COVID-19 Persons under Investigation Among Residents and Staff in NHs](#)

MAY

May 6, 2020 - (QSO-20-29-NH) - [Interim Final Rule Updating Requirements for Notification of Confirmed and Suspected COVID-19 Cases Among Residents and Staff in NHs](#)

- CMS is requiring nursing homes to report COVID-19 facility data to CDC and to residents, their representatives, and families of residents in facilities
- COVID-19 Tags: F884 and F885
- Updated COVID-19 Focused Survey for Nursing Homes, Entrance Conference Worksheet, COVID-19 Focused Survey Protocol, and Summary of the COVID-19 Focused Survey for Nursing Homes to reflect COVID-19 reporting requirements
- CMS will begin posting data from the CDC National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) for viewing by facilities, stakeholders, or the general public

May 18, 2020 - (QSO-20-30-NH) - [NH Reopening Recommendations for State and Local Officials](#)

- Criteria for relaxing certain restrictions and mitigating the risk of resurgence: Factors to inform decisions for relaxing nursing home restrictions through a phased approach
- Visitation and Service Considerations: Considerations allowing visitation and services in each phase
- Restoration of Survey Activities: Recommendations for restarting certain surveys in each phase

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR JUNE

JUNE

June 1, 2020 - (QSO-20-31-AII) - [COVID-19 Survey Activities, CARES Act Funding, Enhanced Enforcement for Infection Control deficiencies, and Quality Improvement Activities in NHs](#)

- States that have not completed 100% of their focused infection control nursing home surveys by July 31, 2020 will be required to submit a corrective action plan to their CMS location outlining the strategy for completion of these surveys within 30 days.
- If, after the 30-day period, States have still not achieved surveys in 100% of their nursing homes, their CARES Act FY2021 allocation may be reduced by up to 10%.
- Subsequent 30-day extensions could result in an additional reduction up to 5%. These funds would then be redistributed to those States that completed 100% of their focused infection control surveys by July 31.
- In addition to completing the Focused Infection Control surveys of nursing homes, CMS is also requiring States to implement the following COVID-19 survey activities:
 1. Perform on-site surveys (within 30 days of this memo) of nursing homes with previous COVID-19 outbreaks, defined as:
 - Cumulative confirmed cases/bed capacity at 10% or greater; or
 - Cumulative confirmed plus suspected cases/bed capacity at 20% or greater; or
 - Ten or more deaths reported due to COVID-19.
 2. Perform on-site surveys (within three to five days of identification) of any nursing home with 3 or more new COVID-19 suspected and confirmed cases in the since the last National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) COVID-19 report, or 1 confirmed resident case in a facility that was previously COVID-free. State Survey Agencies are encouraged to communicate with their State Healthcare Associated Infection coordinators prior to initiating these surveys.
 3. Starting in FY 2021, perform annual Focused Infection Control surveys of 20 percent of nursing homes based on State discretion or additional data that identifies facility and community risks.

June 4, 2020 - (QSO 20-32-NH) - [Release of COVID-19 Nursing Home Data](#)

- 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.

June 4, 2020 - (QSO 20-33-NH) - [Posting of Nursing Home Inspections](#)

- CMS will post health inspection (i.e., surveys) results that were conducted on or after March 4th, 2020, which is the first date that CMS altered the way that inspections are scheduled and conducted. This includes inspections related to complaints and facility-reported incidents (FRIs) that were triaged at the Immediate Jeopardy (IJ) level, and the streamlined Infection Control inspection process that was developed based on the guidance for preventing the spread of COVID-19.