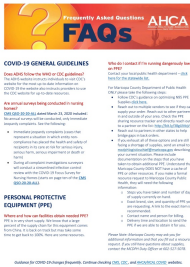




ALERT

Tuesday, March 24, 2020



[Click here](#) to view the most recent **AHCA FAQ** on COVID-19.

CMS: Prioritization of Survey Activities, Part II

Survey Guidance – Further Details:

As you know from our March 23, 2020 Alert, CMS released [QSO-20-20-ALL](#) which gives new guidance on how surveys for nursing homes, as well as other provider types will be conducted. Here are the highlights that you need to know:

- State survey agencies will conduct surveys related to complaints and facility-reported incidents (FRIs) that are triaged at an IJ level.
- During this prioritization period, federal and state surveyors will also conduct targeted infection control surveys of facilities identified collaboratively with CDC and ASPR.
- A streamlined review checklist will be used to conduct these surveys. [Click here](#) and scroll towards the bottom of the QSO for this important information.
- This checklist must be used in all nursing homes, as they are **expected to use this tool to conduct a facility self-assessment**. [Click here](#) and scroll towards the bottom of the QSO for this important information. ***If surveyors conduct one of these surveys at your facility – they may ask to see your self-assessment.***
- No standard surveys of nursing homes will be conducted during this prioritization period. This includes life safety surveys.
- If you have outstanding penalties including DPNA, CMPs, directed inservice training, or an onsite revisit due to a “G” level deficiency – these will be suspended during this time.
- Only IJ revisits will be conducted to lift a current IJ situation.

Your Immediate Attention Needed:

- Download the “COVID-19 Focused Survey for Nursing Homes” and use this tool to conduct a self-assessment. [Click here](#)
- Identify areas that are not in compliance and create an action plan, and possibly a PIP through your QAPI program.
- Implement your action plan.

Maricopa County Department of Public Health Webinar – Today (March 24) at 3 p.m.

Please join Maricopa County on Tuesday, March 24, 2020 for a weekly webinar. New guidance for Long Term Care Facilities, Assisted Living Facilities, Nursing Homes, and mixed residential type

facilities will be discussed. [Click here](#) to register. Please take note, you must register to receive your call-in information.

Expanded Guidance to Limit Visitors Across Other Provider Types

- In this memo, CMS provides guidance to restrict visitation in health care facilities such as hospitals, critical access hospitals, psychiatric hospitals, inpatient hospice units, and intermediate care facilities for individuals with developmental disabilities.
- **Nursing homes should continue to refer to [QSO-20-14](#) for visitor guidance.**

Reminder

Federal and state employees such as APS investigators, surveyors and others are considered essential visitors under current CMS rules. They must adhere to your policies and procedures on screening and should be screened for symptoms of COVID-19, and possibly wear protective equipment before entering facilities.

Questions? Contact me at Dvoepel@azhca.org | 602-265-5331 | www.azhca.org

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