

In This COVID-19 Update:

- [Temporary Nurse Aide Training & Competency Checklist](#)
- [Revised Screening Checklist for Visitors and Staff](#)
- [ICF/IIDs and PRTFs COVID-19 Guidance Released](#)
- [Mark's COVID-19 Video Series: Supporting Frontline Staff](#)

Temporary Nurse Aide Training & Competency Checklist

As we shared in [Update #26](#) last night, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a blanket waiver that includes an allowance for nursing centers to temporarily employ individuals who have completed alternative training paths, as long as they are competent to provide relevant nursing and nursing related services.

AHCA/NCAL have been advocating for CMS to issue such a waiver to assist in addressing staffing shortages due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This is now allowed on the federal level. **State approvals, such as state occupational licensing and state regulatory requirements, may also need to be granted.**

We have a training program ready to use when your state occupational licensing and state regulatory agency approves such waivers. **AHCA/NCAL is offering an 8-hour online [Temporary Nurse Aide training course](#) free to all participants.**

We also have developed a [skills competency checklist](#) for facilities to use on-site when they hire individuals to work as Temporary Nurse Aides. It is important to know **the federal requirement at §483.35(c) is still in effect**, which requires facilities to ensure that nurse aides are able to demonstrate competency in skills and techniques necessary to care for residents' needs, as identified through resident assessments, and described in the plan of care.

Revised Screening Checklist for Visitors and Staff

We have updated the [screening checklist for visitors and staff](#) based on the latest guidance from CMS and CDC. Revisions include changes to Section 3B

to reflect when a staff person has worked in facilities or locations with recognized COVID-19 cases, and the staff person has worked with a person with confirmed COVID-19. They should be required to wear PPE including masks, gloves, gown before any contact with residents.

Section 4 was also expanded to include CDC guidance for health care provider use of PPE when there are cases of COVID-19 present or not in the facility, as well is in the community. Please replace the prior version of this checklist with this revised version.

ICF/IIDs and PRTFs COVID-19 Guidance Released

Yesterday, CMS released [guidance](#) for infection control and prevention of COVID-19 in Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IIDs) and Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTFs). CMS notes that these facility staff should regularly monitor the [CDC website](#) for information and resources. These providers should also contact their state health agency if they have questions or suspect a client/resident of an ICF/IID or PRTF has COVID-19.

Mark's COVID-19 Video Series – Emotional Support for Staff

In this newest video from our COVID-19 video series, President & CEO Mark Parkinson and CMO Dr. David Gifford talk about ways to help staff cope through the pandemic. And special guest **Nick Nurse**, head coach of the Toronto Raptors (2019 NBA Champions for non-sports fans), offers a message of support to long term care frontline workers.



WATCH NOW

Please email COVID19@ahca.org for additional questions, or visit ahcancal.org/coronavirus for more information.

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