



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES  
*Aging and Long-Term Support Administration*  
*PO Box 45600, Olympia, Washington 98504-5600*

March 17, 2021

AL TSA: NH #2021-023  
UPDATE ON NHSN AND STATE REPORTING PORTAL FOR COVID-19 DATA

Dear Nursing Facility/Home Administrator:

In May 2020, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) updated 42 CFR §483.80, and established a requirement for facilities to report information about COVID-19 to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) through the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN).

Facilities can meet the reporting requirement by submitting data directly to NHSN or data can be submitted to a reporting portal built and managed by the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) and the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS). Access the DSHS reporting portal at <https://fortress.wa.gov/dshs/adsaapps/lookup/FacilityStatus/UpdateStatus.aspx>

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of changes NHSN made recently to the data you must report. Below is a summary of significant modifications made on February 4, 2021 and March 4, 2021 for the LTCF COVID-19 Manual.

**February 4<sup>th</sup> Updates: Modifications to the Resident Impact and Facility Capacity pathways, and the addition of a new Therapeutics pathway.** Data entry for the new variables (specifically, resident vaccination status and resident therapeutics) are available retrospectively back to Monday February 1, 2021, allowing users to edit previously reported data in the **Resident Impact and Facility Capacity** pathway and add new data in the **Therapeutics** pathway.

1. **Vaccination Status** section has been added to the **Resident Impact and Facility Capacity** pathway form to assess vaccine coverage among residents newly positive for SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19). The questions will become visible for completion when the reported count for *Positive Tests* is greater than 0 for the reporting period. Vaccine status counts are based on *Test Type* category and vaccine type for the reporting period. New vaccines will be added as they become available.
2. The **Resident Therapeutics** form is now included in the new pathway to assess weekly usage and inventory data for monoclonal antibodies. Additional therapies will be added as they become available.

**March 4<sup>th</sup> Updates: Modifications to the Resident Impact and Facility Capacity pathways, and updates to the Supplies pathway and the Therapeutics pathway**

1. **Vaccination Status** section: For the **Resident Impact and Facility Capacity** pathways, Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) was added as an additional COVID-19 vaccine. The vaccination status section was also updated to include an unspecified vaccine status, to permit for counts of residents who received full vaccine series (based on vaccine manufacturer recommendations) from an unspecified manufacturer.

2. **Supplies and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Pathway:** The Supplies and Personal Protective Equipment pathway was updated to include the optimization strategies that facilities are using regarding their PPE supply items. The requirement to report once a week is still in place for this pathway. Reporting for the updated data elements to begin the week of March 8, 2021.
  - a) **Alcohol-based hand rub** will now appear on the form as opposed to alcohol-based hand sanitizer. This wording change is to include a broader range of products and to align with CDC guidelines. Availability as well as urgent need are the areas to report for this product.
  - b) **PPE supply items** will now include the type of optimization strategy the facility is using as a reporting measure. The supply items have not changed and continue to include N95 respirators, facemasks, eye protection, gowns, and gloves. The availability for these items will be reported by indicating the optimization strategy that is being used for each supply item. The optimization strategies include conventional, contingency, and crisis capacity strategies. Users will also be asked to report if there is an urgent need for each PPE supply item listed above.
  - c) **A new section added called, Need for Government Support or Assistance.** This new section offers facilities a new option to indicate they would like outreach from state or local government to discuss COVID-19 assistance needs related to staffing shortages, personal protective equipment shortages, SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) testing supply shortages, infection control/ outbreak management, staff training, and COVID-19 vaccination for residents and/or staff. Local, State, and Federal governments will use affirmative (“Yes”) responses to this question as another way to monitor assistance needs that facilities face and to prioritize outreach and response actions.
  
3. **Therapeutics Pathway:** Additional therapeutic agents added- **Bamlanivimab and etesevimab (Lilly).**

DSHS has updated the state reporting portal questions to mirror the changes NHSN made, for those facilities choosing to use the state portal to report to NHSN. The NHSN questions, including those newly added, will only appear if you have opted to have DSHS share your facility data with DOH for NHSN upload.

If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Herke, Nursing Home Policy Program Manager, at (509) 209-3088 or [lisa.herke@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:lisa.herke@dshs.wa.gov).

Sincerely,



Mike Anbesse, Director  
Residential Care Services

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