



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

April 13, 2018

**AL TSA: NH #2018-009**  
**SPECIALIZED INFECTION PREVENTION & CONTROL TRAINING**

Dear Nursing Facility/Home Administrator

The purpose of this letter is to inform you the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are collaborating on the development of a free on-line training course in infection prevention and control for nursing home staff in the long-term care setting.

Healthcare-associated infection can result in considerable harm or death for residents in Long Term Care facilities, as well as increased costs for the healthcare system. The revised Requirements for Participation, effective November 28, 2016, outlined specific components of an effective infection control program, to be phased in over a three year period. The third phase, effective November 28, 2019, includes specialized training as a required component.

The infection prevention and control training course will be free of charge and is expected to be available on-line and on-demand in spring 2019. Completion of this course will provide specialized training in infection prevention and control.

The training is expected to take approximately 16 to 20 hours and a certificate of completion will be provided after successful completion of an online exam. CMS will release further details about the course at a later date.

The content of the training is expected to cover the following topics: Infection prevention and control program overview, infection preventionist responsibilities, quality assessment and assurance committee, infection surveillance, outbreaks, hand hygiene, principles of standard and transmission-based precautions, medication and sharps safety, respiratory etiquette, device and wound management, environmental cleaning, disinfection, and sterilization, vaccine-preventable respiratory infections and tuberculosis, employee and occupational health considerations, linen management, water management, antibiotic stewardship program, and Infection prevention and antibiotic stewardship considerations during care transitions. For more information related to this training, please review the CMS [QSO 18-15-NH memo](#).

Thank you for your continued commitment to resident health and safety. If you have any questions, please contact CMS at [NHSurveyDevelopment@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:NHSurveyDevelopment@cms.hhs.gov).

Sincerely,

  
Candace Goehring, Director  
Residential Care Services

*"Transforming Lives"*