



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

February 21, 2020

AL TSA: NH #2020-005
AL TSA: ICF/IID #2020-002

**QSO 20-09-ALL INFORMATION FOR HEALTHCARE FACILITIES CONCERNING 2019
NOVEL CORONAVIRUS ILLNESS (2019-nCoV)**

Dear Nursing Home Administrator and ICF/IID Superintendent:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is closely monitoring an outbreak of respiratory illness caused by a novel (new) coronavirus first identified in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. Chinese authorities identified the new coronavirus, which has resulted in thousands of confirmed cases in China, including cases outside Wuhan City. Additional cases have been identified in a growing number of other countries, including the United States.

The CDC has issued information on the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV). Links to these documents are provided in [QSO 20-09-ALL](#). The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) strongly urges the review of CDC's guidance and encourages facilities to review their own infection prevention and control policies and practices to prevent the spread of infection.

Suggested elements of facility practice to review:

- Review your emergency preparedness plan for actions your facility will take for "emerging infectious diseases." The 2016 Emergency Preparedness Final Rule requires facilities to include "emerging infectious diseases" in their emergency preparedness plans. Understanding all of the various hazards to prepare for emergencies, such as 2019-nCoV, improves resident/client outcomes and provides protection to residents/clients, family members as well as staff in healthcare settings. CMS Emergency Preparedness Website: <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/SurveyCertEmergPrep>
- Monitor for compliance with basic infection control practices. For suspected or confirmed 2019 novel coronavirus, CDC is currently advising adherence to Standard, Contact, and Airborne Precautions, including the use of eye protection.
- Monitor for compliance with standard hand hygiene practices, using alcohol-based hand rub/hand sanitizer (ABHR/ABHS) as the preferred method of hand hygiene in most clinical situations. If hands are visibly soiled, wash with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Healthcare facilities should ensure that hand hygiene supplies are readily available.
- Review for appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) use and availability, such as gloves, gowns, respirators, and eye protection. If there is difficulty accessing or ordering PPE, please contact the local health jurisdiction.

CMS will continue to monitor the 2019-nCoV situation and supports CDC efforts. For the most current information on the outbreak, please refer to the links in the QSO memorandum or this CDC website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.

The Washington state Department of Health (DOH) has established a webpage and a hotline number for questions about the 2019-nCoV: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus>

Dear NH Administrator/ICF Superintendent: Concerning 2019 Novel Coronavirus Illness
February 21, 2020
Page 2

Healthcare providers and healthcare facilities must report suspected or confirmed cases of 2019 Novel Coronavirus to their local health jurisdiction and to the Residential Care Services Complaint Resolution Unit (CRU):

- Residential Care Services CRU at 800-562-6078 or online: [Online Incident Reporting](#)
- Information on how to report to your local health jurisdiction:
<https://www.doh.wa.gov/ForPublicHealthandHealthcareProviders/NotifiableConditions>

The QSO memo is effective immediately. Please address questions about the QSO memorandum to QSOG_EmergencyPrep@cms.hhs.gov.

Thank you for your continued commitment to resident/client health and safety. If you have any questions about the 2019 Novel Coronavirus illness, please contact your local health jurisdiction or DOH.

Sincerely,



Candace Goehring, Director
Residential Care Services

DSHS: "Transforming Lives"