



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

August 25, 2020
Amended September 2, 2020

AL TSA: NH #2020-060

AMENDED: UPDATE ON NHSN AND STATE REPORTING PORTAL FOR COVID-19 DATA

Dear Nursing Facility/Home Administrator:

On May 8, 2020, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) published an interim final rule that established a requirement for facilities to report confirmed or suspected COVID-19 cases to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), through the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN). Information about the rule, and how to report data was published on May 6, 2020 in CMS memo [QSO-20-29-NH](#).

In Administrator letter #s [020-032](#) and [020-034](#), RCS reported that the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) and the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) were building an electronic system facilities could utilize to report the data. It is operational and facilities can choose to report the required data directly to NHSN or to the [state reporting portal](#). If facilities report data to the state portal, and the facility indicates they would like DSHS to share their data with DOH, DOH will upload it to NHSN.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you about changes NHSN is making to the data you must report.

On August 10, 2020, NHSN announced deployment of updates to the COVID-19 modules "Resident Impact and Facility Capacity." Specifically, NHSN added new testing questions regarding facility access and capacity for COVID-19 viral testing of residents and facility personnel.

Previous questions removed after August 9, 2020:

1. Does your facility have access to COVID-19 testing while the resident is in the facility?
2. If YES, what laboratory type?

Updates and additional questions added beginning August 10, 2020:

1. Does the Long Term Care Facility (LTCF) have the ability to perform or to obtain resources for performing COVID-19 viral testing (nucleic acid or antigen) on all current residents within the next 7 days, if needed?
2. During the past two weeks, on average how long did it take your LTCF to receive COVID-19 viral (nucleic acid or antigen) test results of residents?
3. Since the last date of data entry in the module, has your LTCF performed COVID-19 viral testing on residents?
4. Does the LTCF have the ability to perform or to obtain resources for performing COVID-19 viral testing (nucleic acid or antigen) on all staff and/or facility personnel within the next 7 days, if needed?
5. During the past two weeks, on average how long did it take your LTCF to receive COVID-19 viral (nucleic acid or antigen) test results of staff and/or facility personnel?

6. Since the last date of data entry in the module, has your LTCF performed COVID-19 viral testing on staff and/or facility personnel?

AMENDED SECTION:

Additional questions as of August 31, 2020

1. Does the LTCF have an in-house point-of-care test machine (capability to perform COVID-19 testing within your facility)?
2. Since the last date of data entry in the module, how many COVID-19 point-of-care tests has the LTCF performed on residents?
3. Since the last date of data entry in the module, how many COVID-19 point-of-care tests has the LTCF performed on staff and/or facility personnel?
4. Based on this week's inventory, do you have enough supplies to test all staff and/or facility personnel for COVID-19 using the point-of-care test machine?

The complete table of instructions from NHSN is available at this link:

<https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/pdfs/covid19/lctf/57.144-toi-508.pdf>

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.

Thank you for your continued commitment to resident health and safety. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Herke, Nursing Home Policy Program Manager, at (509) 209-3088 or lisa.herke@dshs.wa.gov.

Sincerely,



Amy Abbott for
Candace Goehring, Director
Residential Care Services

DSHS: *"Transforming Lives"*