



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

August 28, 2020

ALISA: NH #2020-062

CMS ANNOUNCEMENTS ABOUT NEW INFECTION CONTROL TRAINING

Dear Nursing Facility/Home Administrator:

On August 25, 2020, CMS [announced](#) the release of an infection control training for nursing home staff. This training will help provide nursing home staff with the knowledge and tools they need to strengthen infection control practices and help stop the spread of COVID-19.

The training, called “CMS Targeted COVID-19 Training for Frontline Nursing Home Staff and Management,” has a section for frontline caregivers and a section for management. The training is available immediately at no charge at the Quality, Safety & Education Portal (QSEP). On the sign-in page at this link (<https://qsep.cms.gov/welcome.aspx>), instructions are available about how to access the training and how to receive a certificate of completion.

“CMS Targeted COVID-19 Training for Frontline Nursing Home Staff” covers five topics separated into five modules:

- Hand Hygiene and PPE
- Screening and Surveillance
- Cleaning the Nursing Home
- Cohorting
- Caring for Residents with Dementia in a Pandemic

“CMS Targeted COVID-19 Training for Nursing Home Management” covers 10 topics separated into 10 modules. In addition to the five modules covered in the frontline staff training, the management training also includes modules on:

- Basic infection control
- Emergency preparedness and surge capacity
- Addressing emotional health of residents and staff
- Telehealth for nursing homes
- Getting your vaccine delivery system ready.

Additionally, CMS and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are offering bi-weekly webinars from August 27, 2020, through January 7, 2021, from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. (Pacific Time). Subject matter experts will answer infection control and COVID-19 related questions. Registration is required. Please register here: [Zoom webinar registration page](#).

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,

Candace Goehring, Director
Residential Care Services

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