



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

November 19, 2020

**AL TSA: NH #2020-090**

**CMS NURSING HOME COVID-19 TRAINING DATA WITH URGENT CALL TO ACTION**

Dear Nursing Facility/Home Administrator

On [August 25, 2020](#), the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced the release of an infection control training for nursing home staff. The training was developed to provide nursing home staff with the knowledge and tools they need to strengthen infection control practices and help stop the spread of COVID-19. Residential Care Services (RCS) announced the training in a nursing home provider letter, [2020-062](#).

The CMS Targeted COVID-19 Training for Frontline Nursing Home Staff & Management has five specific modules designed for frontline clinical staff and 10 designed for nursing home management. There is no cost for the training.

The training is available now on the CMS Quality, Safety & Education Portal (QSEP) at <https://QSEP.cms.gov>. Instructions on how to access the trainings are available at this website.

On [November 17, 2020](#), CMS issued a call to action to have more nursing home staff complete the training, and urged nursing homes to require their staff to complete the training.

- Nationally, 1092 nursing homes have had at least 50% of their staff complete the training, approximately 7% of all nursing homes.
- Eleven Washington state nursing homes have had at least 50% of their staff complete the training, approximately 5.5% of all Washington state nursing homes.
- CMS estimates that only 12.5% of all nursing home staff across the nation have completed the training.
- The list of nursing homes at which 50% or more of staff have completed CMS COVID-19 training is here: [Nursing Home Facilities Training 50% Achievement List \(PDF\)](#)

If a nursing home's staff is unsure which training module best meets their needs, CMS is offering an online self-assessment tool at [www.qioprogram.org](http://www.qioprogram.org) to help them identify their needs and suggest the appropriate training modules that best reflect those needs. A certificate of completion is offered for each completed training course.

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

Sincerely,

Candace Goehring, Director  
Residential Care Services

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