



Hospice and Home Health COVID-19 Call
07/09/2020

1. Welcome
2. The all-time most asked question continues to be, “When do I have to renew my license to operate a home care or hospice?”
 - a. 14 days after EO has ended
 - b. Please feel free to do so now
 - c. For information regarding the Home Care Administrator License please contact Nurse Aide Registry at NAR@health.ok.gov.
3. The next most asked question is related to current TB requirements
 - a. State regulations (661. 662 and 667) are in the process of revision
 - b. Changes will incorporate 2019 CDC guidelines
 - c. We originally expected to see this in writing around the 3rd quarter of this year
 - d. The rules will be published in the September 1 edition of the OK Register and will be effective on September 11.
 - e. In anticipation of the change, what are you doing as a home health or hospice?
 1. Have you revised your policies and procedures?
 2. Are you following your policies and procedures?
 3. Does your policies and procedures continue to require annual testing?
 4. You can choose to be more stringent.
 5. Where you chose to be more stringent, we hold you to that requirement.
 6. Some callers state they will not make changes until they see documented changes in the 662. That is OK.
4. Questions regarding COVID 19 testing:
 - a. If we were in contact with someone who tested positive or was in contact with someone in contact with someone who tested positive, what should we do?
 1. Call 211
 2. or 877-215-8336 to speak with a specialist or on-call epidemiologist.
 - b. Self-isolate as instructed
 - c. Get tested as instructed
5. We are concerned that employees will claim contact with a potentially infected person in order to get paid time off from work. How do we handle that?



- a. Have you made updates to your personnel policies based on these concerns?
- b. Have you made updates to your emergency preparedness and infection control policies?
- c. Have you re-updated based on new increases in infection rates?
- d. Have you had employees sign notification of changes for any agency changes in policy/procedures/leave/paid-time-off policies?

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6. (segue from previous question) With increases in COVID-19, has your agency made changes in your infection control practices? What changes have you made to keep your staff and clientele safe?
 - a. Have you stepped back to a previous phase?
 - b. Do you require PPE with every patient encounter?
 - c. What are your practices in the office environment for office staff? Is this different for field staff?
 - d. Are you modeling the practices that you expect your staff to follow? (i.e. are you practicing social distancing in the office, during meetings and gatherings?)
 - e. How can you ensure your staff knows the most current IC policies/practices of your agency?
 7. Survey activities
 - a. We continue to participate in infection control related surveys that rise to the IJ and non IJ level
 - b. Agencies with past issues in non-compliance in infection control, abuse, neglect wounds, etc. may be identified as needing attention as well
 - c. CMS guidance provided for non-long-term care survey expectations has been grey with hints of return to regular survey activities.
 - d.
 8. Questions/Answers
 - a. None this week



OKLAHOMA
State Department
of Health

*Note unable to facilitate call on 07/02/2020 due to technical difficulties. Call rescheduled to 07/09/2020

