

Notification to Families of Facility COVID Status

July 23, 2020

Requirements for Notification of Confirmed and Suspected COVID-19 Cases Among Residents and Staff in Nursing Homes

In CMS memo QSO-20-29-NH, released May 6, 2020, CMS provided notice of interim final rules related to requiring nursing homes to report COVID-19 facility data to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and to residents, their representatives, and families of residents in facilities.

These new rules that were effective May 8, 2020, include the following notification requirements at 42 CFR 483.80(g)(3)

42 CFR § 483.80 - Infection control.

- (g) COVID-19 reporting. The facility must -
- (3) Inform residents, their representatives, and families of those residing in facilities by 5 p.m. the next calendar day following the occurrence of either a single confirmed infection of COVID-19, or three or more residents or staff with new-onset of respiratory symptoms occurring within 72 hours of each other. This information must -
- (i) Not include personally identifiable information;
- (ii) Include information on mitigating actions implemented to prevent or reduce the risk of transmission, including if normal operations of the facility will be altered; and
- (iii) Include any cumulative updates for residents, their representatives, and families at least weekly or by 5 p.m. the next calendar day following the subsequent occurrence of either: Each time a confirmed infection of COVID-19 is identified, or whenever three or more residents or staff with new onset of respiratory symptoms occur within 72 hours of each other.

The complete text of the memo can be found

here: https://www.ok.gov/health2/documents/QSO-20-29-NH.pdf

The rule can be found here: https://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/42/483.80.

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