Here are Care Providers Oklahoma latest updates as of May 7, 2020

[**COVID-19 Update #62**](https://www.ahcancal.org/facility_operations/disaster_planning/Documents/COVID%20Update%2062.pdf) **| CMS Releases Interim Final Rule Updating Requirements for Reporting and Notification COVID-19 Cases**

CMS released a [QSO memo](https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-20-29-nh.pdf) addressing the Interim Final Rule requiring nursing homes to report to NHSN on COVID-19 as well as provide notifications to residents, their representatives, and families.

Some highlights from the memo are listed below:

**These requirements go into effect with the publication in the Federal Register of the** [**interim final rule**](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/05/08/2020-09608/medicare-and-medicaid-programs-basic-health-program-and-exchanges-additional-policy-and-regulatory) **on May 8, 2020**.

CMS had previously communicated the effective date was May 1. However, CMS revised the effective date to be May 8, 2020.

The effective date means nursing homes are required to begin notifications of residents, their representatives, and families as of May 8. This means the first notification could be required to occur by May 9 at 5 pm, should the facility have any of the resident and/or staff cases on May 8 as described by CMS required to make notification.

**Action**: Ensure system and processes for notifications are in place in your facility by May 8 to meet new requirements.

**Facilities must submit their first set of data by 11:59 pm on Sunday, May 17, 2020 to the NHSN Long-Term Care Facility COVID-19 Module**.

**Action**: Register now for NHSN and begin collecting data starting May 8, 2020. [NOTE: registration is taking more time than expected and we encourage you to start now to avoid further delays that may impact your compliance.]

**CMS will provide facilities with an initial two-week grace period to begin reporting cases in the NHSN system (which ends at 11:59 p.m. on May 24, 2020)**.

Facilities that do not begin reporting after the third week (by 11:59 pm on May 31, 2020) will receive a warning letter reminding them to begin reporting the required information to the CDC. For facilities that have not started reporting in the NHSN system by 11:59 p.m. on June 7, ending the fourth week of reporting, CMS will impose a per day (PD) CMP of $1,000 for the failure to report that week. For each subsequent week that the facility fails to submit the required report, the noncompliance will result in an additional one-day PD CMP imposed at an amount increased by $500.

**New COVID-19 F-tags & Updated Survey Tools**

CMS has established two new F-Tags - F884: COVID-19 Reporting to CDC and F885 COVID-19 Reporting to Residents, their Representatives, and Families. CMS has updated survey tools including COVID-19 Focused Survey for Nursing Homes, Entrance Conference Worksheet, COVID-19 Focused Survey Protocol, and Summary of the COVID-19 Focused Survey for Nursing Homes. These updated forms are posted to the [Survey Resources folder](https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/GuidanceforLawsAndRegulations/Downloads/Survey-Resources.zip) in the COVID19 Focused Survey sub-folder on the CMS Nursing Homes website.

**Action**: Facilities should begin using the revised “COVID-19 Focused Survey for Nursing Homes” to perform their self-assessment. Surveyors will begin using these revised documents immediately.

**Public Posting of NHSN Data Anticipated by End of May**

CMS anticipates publicly posting CDC’s NHSN data (including facility names, number of COVID-19 suspected, and confirmed cases, deaths, and other data as determined appropriate) weekly on Monday’s at <https://data.cms.gov/> by the end of May.

[**COVID-19 Update #61**](https://www.ahcancal.org/facility_operations/disaster_planning/Documents/Update%2061.pdf) **| Retrospective Reporting to Jan. 1 is Optional in NHSN**

There has been some confusion as to whether retrospective reporting in [NHSN COVID-19 module](https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/ltc/covid19/index.html) is required or not. AHCA has confirmed with CDC that it is optional to submit data back to January 1, 2020. CDC also stated that retrospective reporting was optional. CDC is working on revisions to the NHSN guide and instructions to make this clearer.

**As a reminder, the new rule requires reporting starting last Friday, May 1, which must be done at least weekly**. This makes Friday, May 8 the end of the first reporting period.

AHCA continues to advocate for CMS to allow a grace period from enforcement due to the length of time necessary for nursing homes to gain access to NHSN as well as time needed to establish systems for reporting.

[**COVID-19 Update #60**](https://www.ahcancal.org/facility_operations/disaster_planning/Documents/Update%2060.pdf) **| Start NHSN Data Collection Now Despite Registration Lag Time**

There is a lag time between initiating registration to NHSN and completion of the registration process due to the number of long-term care facilities that are trying to gain access. NHSN is reporting a 24-48 hour, and in some instances longer, lag time between initial registration to actual completion of registration and the ability to use the COVID-19 reporting module. While waiting for the registration process to complete, you should download now the four data collection pathway forms and accompanying instructions to start collecting the data that you will be uploading to [NHSN](https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/ltc/covid19/index.html) once registration process is complete. It is extremely important to download, and refer to, the instructions page for each of the four data collection pathways. Refer to the definitions of each term prior to completing the data collection form. The four data collection pathway forms are:

[Resident Impact and Facility Capacity](https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/pdfs/covid19/ltcf/57.144-res-blank-p.pdf)

[Staff and Personnel Impact](https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/pdfs/covid19/ltcf/57.145-staff-blank-p.pdf)

[Supplies and Personal Protective Equipment](https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/pdfs/covid19/ltcf/57.146-supp-blank-p.pdf)

[Ventilator Capacity and Supplies](https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/pdfs/covid19/ltcf/57.147-vent-blank-p.pdf)

**National Skilled Nursing Care Week May 10-16, 2020**

Current social distancing rules and the inability of friends and family to enter the buildings has changed much of the day to day life of the staff and the residents. This year, while it is more important than ever to celebrate NSNCW and recognize the staff and residents in our skilled nursing care centers across the nation, it is a challenge to figure out how best to do so. One thing is certain, though, staff are playing a critical role in caring for residents and saving lives, and that deserves to be honored and celebrated. How are you planning to recognize your staff during NSNCW?

Let us also remember that Mother’s Day is Sunday, May 10th – the beginning of National Skilled Nursing Care Week. Care Providers Oklahoma would like to show-off how your facilities are celebrating Mother’s Day and National Skilled Nursing Care Week during this time by showcasing your facilities on social media via [our Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/careprovidersoklahoma/?ref=bookmarks).

**Care Providers Oklahoma NOW OFFERING Distance Learning courses!**

Care Providers Oklahoma is now offering [on demand education](https://careoklahoma.nextthought.io/login/) to earn NAB CEU’s at your own leisure. Simply login and create an account to get started!

**Spring Convention 2020**

This year we are preparing to hold a virtual spring convention for our organization.  It will incorporate continuing education opportunities for our facility members and a unique exhibition/engagement from our vendors and business associate members.  We will be promoting the entire month of June as our “Convention Month”. More information to follow

**Care Providers Oklahoma COVID -19 Resource Page**

Care Providers Oklahoma is providing regular [COVID-19 updates](https://www.careoklahoma.com/covid-19-resource-page/) via our website including all the AHCA/NCAL COVID-19 Updates and daily Member Updates.

Please visit the [**COVID -19 Resource Page**](https://www.careoklahoma.com/covid-19-resource-page/) to find NEW vendors with available PPE supplies