

Issued: July 29, 2021

To: All State Licensed Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities

From: Department of Health

Re: Reminder for Facilities on Guidance and Directives Issued by ALTSD and DOH

All Long-Term Care Facilities,

New research indicates that fully vaccinated people can spread the delta variant of the COVID-19 virus. The delta variant as, in effect, is a different virus, capable of generating outbreaks of infection even among some people who are vaccinated, although likely to be far less severe. With this new information, we are reminding facilities of the [guidance and directives](#), in the event of reinfections of long-term care residents. Failure to follow these directives may result in citation, civil monetary penalty, or license revocation pursuant to the [New Mexico Administrative Code](#) and all applicable regulations to licensed nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

INFECTION CONTROL

- Facilities must ensure that masks are appropriately worn indoors pursuant to the [county's transmission level according to the CDC](#).
- Facilities must actively locate appropriate PPE for their staff to ensure two (2) weeks of supply. See the [instructions for procuring PPE](#).

CONTINGENCY PLANNING

- Facilities must have their disaster preparedness plans and contingency staffing plans ready prior to an outbreak.
- Each facility must identify a designated Infection Preventionist.

CRISIS STAFFING

- Facilities must follow the process for [requesting crisis staffing](#).

ADMISSIONS

- Facilities must ensure admissions as quickly as possible, requiring only one (1) negative test – this test may be a rapid test.

TESTING

- Facilities are required to follow all [testing guidance](#) issued by the State of New Mexico.

VACCINATION REPORTING

- Facilities must complete the [Survey Monkey](#) on a weekly basis (every Monday by 5:00 pm) reporting their weekly vaccination rate totals.
 - Please **choose the Monday reporting date for the weekly submission.**

It is imperative that facilities are following all state issued guidance and failure to follow the directives may be subject to civil administrative penalties available at law.