

DPHHS QAD CERTIFICATION BUREAU

STATE SURVEY AGENCY
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

JULY 2020



Healthy People. Healthy Communities.

Department of Public Health & Human Services

CERTIFICATION BUREAU TEAM COMMITMENTS

- Public Protection
- Communication
- Consistency
- Accurate Reporting
- Continuous Education

COVID-19 UPDATES

- CMS QSO Memo 20-30-NH Nursing Home Reopening Recommendations for State and Local Officials, May 18, 2020
- CMS QSO Memo 20-31-ALL COVID-19 Survey Activities, CARES Act Funding, Enhanced Enforcement for Infection Control deficiencies, and Quality Improvement Activities in Nursing Homes, June 1, 2020
- Governor Bullock's Directive on Visitation in Senior Living and Assisted Living Facilities June 25, 2020
- CMS Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on Nursing Home Visitation
- CMS Updated QSO-20-31-NH Nursing Home Five Star Quality Rating System updates, Nursing Home Staff Counts, Frequently Asked Questions, and Access to Ombudsman (Revised)

QUESTIONS

- TOPIC: Visitor Restrictions
- QUESTION: Can outdoor visitations occur with residents and families especially with low to no prevalence of cases in county – no new cases in 40 + days
- ANSWER: Yes, see CMS FAQs, Number #3 – Allowed prior to phase 3.
 - Screening of visitors, wear face mask, hand hygiene, social distancing
 - Recommendation limiting amount of visitors

QUESTIONS

- TOPIC: Potential Steps for Reopening
- QUESTION: If a facility is not participating in the Surveillance Monitoring of residents and staff, will that affect their ability to reopen? We need to know these steps in fairness to everyone.
- ANSWER: Testing is being required by the Governor Emergency Rule which is not complete as of today – see Governor's Press conference from July 7, 2020
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GNqDaZcDShI>

QUESTIONS

- TOPIC: Weekly testing of staff and residents
- QUESTION: Who is responsible to implement this and is it mandatory? Also, who is paying for this if it is regulated by the government as a regulation to reopen?
- ANSWER: Unknown, waiting to see the Governor's Emergency Rule.

QUESTIONS

- TOPIC: COVID testing
- QUESTION: When will the state lab be ready to do weekly staff testing?
- ANSWER: Waiting for Governor's Emergency Rule.

QUESTIONS

- TOPIC: Weekly CV-19 testing of staff Isolation with SBP for 14 days after admission or readmission.
- QUESTION: Is weekly testing going to be a requirement at some point and if so how long will we have to implement it?
- ANSWER: Waiting for Governor's Emergency Rule.

QUESTIONS

- TOPIC: Weekly CV-19 testing of staff
- QUESTION: Will there be other labs that perform the CV-19 testing besides the Montana State Lab?
- ANSWER: Waiting for Governor's Emergency Rule.

QUESTIONS

- TOPIC: Weekly CV-19 testing of staff
- QUESTION: How is the testing going to be paid for?
- ANSWER: So far State Government has been paying for sentinel testing. Waiting for Governor's Emergency Rule.

QUESTIONS

- TOPIC: Isolation with SBP for 14 days after admission or readmission
- QUESTION: Is there a way to shorten isolation with SBP of new admits and readmits with testing before admit and then 7 days after?
- ANSWER: Does not indicate that anywhere in CDC or CMS guidance. Remember that if COVID-19 is identified in the facility a targeted infection control survey can occur by the Certification Bureau.

QUESTIONS

- TOPIC: Interpretation of CMS reopening guidance; Please be specific regarding what surveyors will be expecting to see when they survey in terms of visitation, activities, resident and PPE Choices, documentation.
- QUESTION: Is the SSA expecting to see weekly test results for all staff in order to move into Phase II or III? Is so what is the state going to do to support the testing process and what should the facility do about staff who refuse to be tested?
- ANSWER: Waiting for Governor's Emergency Rule. Still have to report new cases if they are found in facility. Governor did issue Directive on 6/25/2020

QUESTIONS

- TOPIC: Testing
- QUESTION: How frequently (weekly, bi-weekly, monthly), do residents and staff have to be tested in order to reopen? Or do they just need the “capacity” to test weekly or some other time frame?
- ANSWER: Waiting for Governor's Emergency Rule

QUESTIONS

- TOPIC: Re-opening of nursing homes
- QUESTION: Cases are still rising and getting 20-50 a day. Why are we reopening our facilities when it doesn't seem safe for our high risk population?
- ANSWER: CMS QSO FAQs issued 6/23/2020 Example #5
 - Case status in surrounding community
 - Case status in the nursing home(s)
 - Staffing levels
 - Access to adequate testing for residents and staff
 - Personal protective equipment supplies
 - Local hospital capacity

QUESTIONS

- TOPIC: Visitation
- QUESTION: Is there an exact plan for visitation to occur? How many can visit?
- ANSWER: Refer to CDC and CMS Guidance
 - QSO-20-30-NH – Governor Directive has adopted guidance
 - CMS FAQs references two visitors for one resident visit

FINAL QUESTIONS

- THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENDANCE