




# STATE AGENCY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

SUMMER, SEPTEMBER 2, 2020



# CERTIFICATION BUREAU TEAM COMMITMENTS

- Public Protection
  - Communication
  - Consistency
  - Accurate Reporting
  - Continuous Education
- 
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# SUPERVISOR: LONG TERM CARE

TENSINA “TINA” SMITH, NHA  
– SUPERVISOR – 406-444-  
4463

LONG TERM CARE

RESIDENT ASSESSMENT  
INSTRUMENT (RAI) OR  
MINIMUM DATA SET (MDS)  
COORDINATOR – LORE  
LATHAM, RD SURVEYOR  
ASSISTANT MDS  
COORDINATOR

NATP

CNA

TODD BOUCHER – BUREAU CHIEF – 406-444-2038  
– TBOUCHER3@MT.GOV

ANY QUESTIONS

SURVEY CONCERNS

QUALITY ASSURANCE DIVISION RECEPTION DESK  
406-444-2099

GENERAL EMAIL INBOX – MTSSAD@MT.GOV –  
PLEASE USE THIS FOR GENERAL QUESTIONS THE  
APPROPRIATE OFFICE STAFF CAN RESPOND. ALL  
SIX OF THE OFFICE STAFF HAVE ACCESS TO THIS  
LOCATION.

FACSIMILE – 406-444-3456

WEB SITE:

[HTTPS://DPHHS.MT.GOV/QAD/CERTIFICATION](https://DPHHS.MT.GOV/QAD/CERTIFICATION)

# BUREAU CHIEF

The background is a solid light green color. In the four corners, there are decorative white and blue line art elements resembling circuit boards or neural networks. These elements consist of thin lines connecting small circles, some of which are open and some are filled. The lines are more prominent in the top-left and bottom-left corners, and more sparse in the top-right and bottom-right corners.

# QUESTIONS WE RECEIVED

# #1 ANTIGEN POINT OF CARE INSTRUMENTS

- Is MT going to have guidance on the use of the antigen point of care instruments that CMS is sending out?
- Certificate of Waiver
- Follow manufacturer's recommendation for testing procedures.
- Training on website of manufacturers
- Questions: CLIA program contact is Michelle Griffin 406-558-9502
- FAQs

# #1 ANTIGEN POINT OF CARE INSTRUMENTS

- Is MT going to have guidance on the use of the antigen point of care instruments that CMS is sending out?
- FAQs – antigen testing
- FDA waived testing: glucose monitoring, dipstick, etc.



## #2 VISITATION

- Are facilities to use the CMS guidelines from May to draft their visitation policies in MT?



## #3 WHAT IS THE AGENCIES PLAN FOR RESTARTING IN PERSON RECERTIFICATION SURVEYS?

- What specific plan is there for assuring that state surveyors do not bring COVID into facilities? Testing? Screening? Will facilities screening requirements be honored?

## #4 NURSING HOME SURVEYS

- Will it be required that surveyors complete COVID testing prior to completing a nursing home survey since it's a requirement for the staff to be tested?

## #5 POSITIVITY RATE

- *The calculation of community positivity- How is the calculation being figured for the positivity rate for each county? How does CMS gather their information for the number of tests being performed. Does this include tests performed by IHS and tests sent to reference labs and state labs?*

## #6 INDIAN HEALTH SERVICES REPORTING

- *Our county includes a reservation that encompasses parts of 2 counties, but all positive cases within the boundaries of the reservation are reported through Roosevelt County and IHS is not required to report their quantity of testing data which results in skewed percentages of positivity.*



## #7 INDIAN HEALTH SERVICES REPORTING

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## #8 PHASE OF OPENING FOR MONTANA

- *With the new guidelines on testing from CMS is the governor going to change his directive of weekly testing of staff at nursing homes, to allow visitors?*



## #9 VISITATION TESTING AND MINIMUM MONTHLY TESTING

- *Federally we are now going to test staff in accordance with our counties positivity rate. Currently we are at 4.5% positivity rate in our county. The minimum testing for us is once a month for staff currently, and get the test results back within 48 hours. Visitation requirements are to test staff weekly without having to wait for results. Are these two testing requirements going to align, or do we have to different tests to have visitation*

## #10 VISITATION AND TESTING

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# #1 1 TRAINING OPTIONS

- *With the mandated Governmental Covid training (3.0 hours for frontline staff and 4.5 hours for managerial staff)...would it be okay for us to go and put this training in our Relias education? The government site is very difficult to navigate.*

# CMS DOCUMENTATION OF INTEREST

- QSO 20-35 ALL - Enforcement Cases Held during the Prioritization Period and Revised Survey Prioritization
- QSO 20-37 CLIA, NH – Interim Final Rule (IFC), CMS
- QSO 20-38-NH – Facility Testing and Revised COVID-19 Focused Survey Tool
- Blanket Waivers: Updated 8/20/20  
<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/summary-covid-19-emergency-declaration-waivers.pdf>

The image features a light green background with a large, faint, light green circle in the center. The corners are decorated with white and blue circuit-like lines and small circles, resembling a stylized electronic board.

# QUESTIONS?