**Date Issued:** July 15, 2020

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

**Regulatory Issue:**

Situation – The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released memo QSO-20-26, “Upcoming Requirements for Notification of Confirmed COVID-19 (or COVID-19 Persons under Investigation) Among Residents and Staff in Nursing Homes,” summarizing the new facility reporting requirements. In an effort to support surveillance of COVID-19 cases and increase transparency for residents, their representatives, and families, the infection control requirements have been added to the provisions to establish reporting for confirmed or suspected COVID-19.

Background – US Code of Federal Regulations 42 CFR section §483.80(g) Infection Control states:

(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

1. Not include personally identifiable information;
2. 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
3. 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.

Assessment –Based on the established system of surveillance in the infection prevention and control plan, identify residents or staff with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 in Nursing Homes.

Recommendations

1. Upon the identification of residents or staff with suspected or confirmed COVID-19:
   1. Notify Hospital Leadership and Communications of reporting requirement as identified;
   2. Prepare and distribute the Initial Notification to patients and their family/caregivers by 5pm the next day;
   3. Prepare and distribute the Additional Case(s) Notification to patients and their family/caregivers as a cumulative update each time a confirmed infection of COVID-19 is identified, as applicable;
   4. Prepare and distribute the Weekly Notification to patients and their family/caregivers as a cumulative weekly update.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

CMS QSO-20-29 Nursing Home Notification

Nursing Home COVID19 INITIAL Notification

Nursing Home COVID19 ADDITIONAL Case(s) Notification

Nursing Home COVID19 WEEKLY Notification

**CONTACTS:** Please reach out to Margaret Swisher, System Vice President Regulatory Readiness at [Margaret.Swisher@dignityhealth.org](mailto:Margaret.Swisher@dignityhealth.org) or (805) 482-1239 for questions.