



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH & WELFARE**

BRAD LITTLE – Governor  
DAVE JEPPESEN – Director

TAMARA PRISOCK—ADMINISTRATOR  
DIVISION OF LICENSING &  
CERTIFICATION  
**BUREAU OF FACILITY STANDARDS**  
DEBRA RANSOM, R.N., R.H.I.T. – Chief  
3232 Elder Street  
P.O. Box 83720  
Boise, Idaho 83720-0009  
PHONE: (208) 334-6626  
FAX: (208) 364-1888  
E-MAIL: [fsb@dhw.idaho.gov](mailto:fsb@dhw.idaho.gov)

**INFORMATIONAL LETTER #2020-25**

---

**DATE:** June 4, 2020  
**TO:** LONG TERM CARE FACILITIES (LTC)  
**FROM:** DEBBY RANSOM, R.N., R.H.I.T., Chief  
Bureau of Facility Standards  
**SUBJECT:** **QSO-20-32-NH – RELEASE OF COVID-19 NURSING  
HOME DATA**

The CMS QSO-20-32-NH - Release of COVID-19 Nursing Home Data is being distributed to all Long Term Care Facilities in Idaho.

If you have any questions, please contact Belinda Day, RN or Laura Thompson, RN at 208-334-6626, option 2.

---

DEBBY RANSOM, R.N., R.H.I.T., Chief  
Bureau of Facility Standards

DR/lg

Attachment



**Center for Clinical Standards and Quality/Quality, Safety, and Oversight Group**

Ref: QSO 20-32-NH

**DATE:** June 4, 2020  
**TO:** State Officials and Nursing Home Stakeholders  
**FROM:** Director  
Quality Safety and Oversight Group  
**SUBJECT:** Release of COVID-19 Nursing Home Data

**Memorandum Summary**

- *The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is committed* to taking critical steps to ensure America’s nursing homes are prepared to respond to the threat caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ***Nursing Home COVID-19 Information:*** CMS will post COVID-19 data submitted by facilities via the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN). The information will be posted on **June 4, 2020** at the following locations:
  - A link to the information in the “Spotlight” section of the [Nursing Home Compare home page](#).
  - The information will also be available at <https://data.cms.gov/Covid19-nursing-home-data>

**Background**

Beginning on May 8, 2020, nursing homes are required under 42 CFR §483.80(g) to report information related to the status of how COVID-19 is affecting their facility (see [QSO-20-29-NH](#)). Nursing homes are required to submit this data via the CDC’s National Health Safety Network (NHSN) COVID-19 Long Term Care Facility Module at least once every seven calendar days. Failure to report in accordance with 42 CFR § 483.80(g) can result in an enforcement action. Reporting COVID-19 data supports CMS commitment to protect the health and safety of residents, and is necessary to ensure the appropriate tracking, response, and mitigation of the spread and impact of COVID-19 on our most vulnerable citizens, the personnel who care for them, and the general public.

**Posting Nursing Home COVID-19 Information**

Consistent with CMS’ commitment to transparency, we will begin posting the reported COVID-19 NHSN data for viewing by nursing home residents and families, facilities, stakeholders, and the general public. The information posted will include each facility’s name, their reported number of confirmed and suspected cases of COVID-19 (including residents and staff), resident

deaths related to COVID-19, availability of personal protective equipment (PPE) and COVID-19 testing, and potential staffing shortages. For more details on the specific data elements collected, please view the CDC's [Long Term Care Facility COVID-19 Module](#) website.

The NHSN COVID-19 information will be posted on **June 4, 2020**, on the [Nursing Home Compare home page](#), in the "Spotlight" section, and will be updated on a weekly basis. The information can also be accessed at <https://data.cms.gov/Covid19-nursing-home-data> starting on June 4, 2020.

We note that the presence of cases of COVID-19 in a nursing home does not automatically indicate non-compliance with federal requirements. Also, since this is a new program, there are several limitations of the data. More information on these limitations is available through the links above. This information can be used to assist with national response to the COVID-19 pandemic in nursing homes, and support actions to protect the health and safety of nursing home residents.

**Contact:**

- Questions about this memorandum should be directed to [NH\\_COVID\\_Data@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:NH_COVID_Data@cms.hhs.gov).
- Questions about the NHSN system and enrollment should be directed to [NHSN@cdc.gov](mailto:NHSN@cdc.gov).

**Effective Date:** This policy is effective immediately and should be communicated to all survey and certification staff, their managers, and the State/Regional Office training coordinators. CMS will communicate any changes or discontinuance of these policies through future memoranda.

/s/  
David Wright