



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES  
*Aging and Long-Term Support Administration*  
*PO Box 45600, Olympia, Washington 98504-5600*

January 31, 2025

**AL TSA: NH #2025-002**  
**QSO-25-11-NH, LONG-TERM CARE (LTC) FACILITY ACUTE RESPIRATORY ILLNESS**  
**REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

Dear Nursing Facility/Home Administrator:

We are writing to inform providers of the new reporting requirements in long term care (LTC) facilities announced by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for COVID-19, influenza, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).

CMS published an Interim Final Rule with Comment (IFC) (CMS-5531-IFC) in 2020, requiring all LTC facilities to report COVID-19 information using the Center for Disease Control (CDC) National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) [42 CFR § 483.80(g)].

NHSN is the nation's most widely used healthcare-associated infection (HAI) tracking system. NHSN provides facilities, health departments, states, regions, and the nation with data needed to identify problem areas, measure progress of prevention efforts, and ultimately eliminate healthcare-associated infections.

On November 1, 2024, CMS released new acute respiratory illness reporting requirements as part of the Calendar Year 2025 Home Health Prospective Payment System Rate Update. These new requirements replace the COVID-19 reporting standards [at § 483.80(g)], which expired on December 31, 2024, except for reporting COVID-19 vaccination status for LTC facility residents and staff.

On December 31, 2024, CMS issued [QSO-25-11-NH](#), notifying Residential Care Services (RCS) staff and LTC facilities of these new respiratory illness reporting requirements for nursing home providers **effective January 1, 2025**. The new data elements for which NHSN reporting will be required include:

- Facility census;
- Resident vaccination status for COVID-19, influenza, and RSV;
- Confirmed resident cases of COVID-19, influenza, and RSV (overall and by vaccination status); and
- Hospitalized residents with confirmed cases of COVID-19, influenza, and RSV (overall and by vaccination status).

The NHSN LTC Facility COVID-19 Module has been updated to include the new data elements that nursing homes must report.

- Facilities should access the NHSN system immediately and navigate to the home page to locate important information, including registration instructions:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/>.

**Survey Process and Enforcement:**

- CMS will develop guidance for surveyors to assess compliance with the new reporting requirements for acute respiratory illness and will outline enforcement measures for

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instances of noncompliance. Once these are finalized, CMS will provide notification that the new requirements have been incorporated into the Long-Term Care Survey Process (LTCSP).

***This memo supersedes QSO-20-29-NH*** Interim Final Rule Updating Requirements for Notification of Confirmed and Suspected COVID-19 Cases Among Residents and Staff in Nursing Homes. **Note:** This does not alter the effective date of the regulatory requirement for reporting. All facilities are still required to report data as specified in the requirements.

**Effective January 1, 2025**

**LTC Facilities will:**

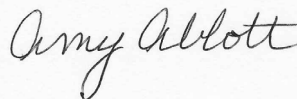
- Report COVID-19, influenza, and RSV data on a weekly basis for residents.
- Report health care personnel vaccination data one week per month, due on a quarterly basis.

**RCS Staff will:**

- Read and understand the information provided in the memorandum.
- Await guidance from CMS notifying LTC facility surveyors that these requirements have been incorporated into the LTCSP.

Thank you for your continued commitment to resident health and safety. If you have any questions, please contact Tiffany Meyers, Nursing Home Policy Program Manager, at [rcspolicy@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:rcspolicy@dshs.wa.gov) or (360) 464-0373.

Sincerely,



Amy Abbott, Director  
Residential Care Services

DSHS: “Partnering with People”

**Related References:** [QSO-25-11-NH, 42 CFR § 483.80\(g\)](#)