



Visit our COVID-19 Page Here

Dear Member:

DLC Begins Infection Control Surveys in Maine Nursing Homes – Are You Ready?

Background:

Maine nursing homes can expect to see DLC surveyors conducting infection control surveys any day now. In fact, we heard from a couple of members who shared that surveyors were on site today. As reported two days ago, CMS released a memorandum ([QSO-20-31-ALL](#)), which identified the requirement for state survey agencies to complete focused infection control surveys in 100% of Maine nursing homes.

Today, MHCA participated in a call with representatives from Maine DHHS, OADS and DLC where this CMS directive was noted. According to representatives from DLC, the Maine survey team will be completing ON SITE focused infection surveys in all Maine nursing homes. In addition to completing the Focused Infection Control surveys of nursing homes, the DLC state team will be implementing the following COVID-19 survey activities:

- Perform on-site surveys (within 30 days of this memo) of nursing homes with previous COVID-19 outbreaks, defined as:
 - Cumulative confirmed cases/bed capacity at 10% or greater; or
 - Cumulative confirmed plus suspected cases/bed capacity at 20% or greater; or
 - Ten or more deaths reported due to COVID-19.
- Perform on-site surveys (within three to five days of identification) of any nursing home with 3 or more new COVID-19 suspected and confirmed cases since the last National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) COVID-19 report, or 1 confirmed resident case in a facility that was previously COVID-free.
- Starting in FY 2021, perform annual Focused Infection Control surveys of 20 percent of nursing homes based on State discretion or additional data that identifies facility and community risks.

MHCA Tools:

In order to help MHCA member facilities prepare for this focused survey the following resources have been added from the [CMS QSEP Surveyor Training Portal](#) to the MHCA webpage under a new section called Focused Infection Control Survey:

- COVID-19 Focused Survey Tool

- Surveyor Training for COVID-19 IP Focused Survey
- COVID-19 Focused Survey Protocol
- COVID-19 Focused Survey Entrance Conference Worksheet
- Summary Table of COVID-19 Focused Survey
- CDC iCAR Assessment

A Member's Advice:

A recent member who experienced their focused infection control survey offered the following advice:

- Follow the infection control focused survey guidance from CMS
- Make sure your screening of visitors/personnel is spot on-as one of the surveyors tried to tell our receptionist she was "all set and didn't need to be screened." My receptionist said "no, I have to screen everybody and ask every one these questions as well as take your temperature."
- They will ask if your facility is doing the NHSN reporting.
- When they do the staff observations, they are specifically watching for handwashing upon entering an isolation room, appropriate donning of PPE, doffing of PPE, and handwashing upon exit of the room as well as using the hand sanitizer once coming out of the room.
- They interview housekeeping staff about cleaning procedures and asked our maintenance director for the name of the EPA approved product being used for surface cleaning and floor cleaning.
- They also ask for proof of ordering PPE from the local EMA-who the medical supply vendor was and who else is used in the event the normal supplier was not able to get PPE, hand sanitizer, other medical supplies.
- They want documentation of communication with EMA/national guard regarding the upcoming fit testing.

They specifically ask for:

- Facility crisis staffing plan,
- List of names/phone numbers of all of your staff,
- Records of education to include the sign in sheets and the materials reviewed,
- Facility infection control policy,
- What guidance you are using,
- Facility surveillance and monitoring policy, and
- Facility line list of any positive or PUI individuals.

Technology Grant Update

MHCA, in partnership with the LTC Ombudsman, has been working with the Maine Division of Licensing and Certification (DLC) to finalize the distribution of communication devices to assist with telehealth and alternative visitation throughout Maine nursing homes. We would like to thank all member facilities for their participation in the survey process and responding to requests for preferences on device type. Early this morning we finalized the figures for each of the 93 homes and submitted the final document for the distribution of funds. Each facility contact person will receive an email from MHCA confirming the total number/type of devices that have been designated for your facility. An update on actual distribution will be coming shortly. We are very excited to be able to coordinate the purchase of these devices for the facilities of Maine.

DHHS Launches Statewide COVID-19 Public Awareness Campaign

Earlier this week, DHHS announced that it is launching a new statewide campaign to emphasize the continued importance of public health measures that limit the spread of COVID-19, including physical distancing, wearing of cloth face coverings, and hand hygiene.

The ["Keep It Maine" campaign \(PDF\)](#) encourages Maine people to continue taking actions that have helped to keep the state's COVID-19 infection and hospitalization rates low compared to other states.

"Maine people and businesses have limited the spread of COVID-19 by keeping to the Maine values that tie us together," said DHHS Commissioner Jeanne Lambrew. "We stay the course and we work together to do what's right for our loved ones, friends, and neighbors. The campaign's theme is built around this shared achievement. Let's keep it up. Let's Keep it Maine."

The campaign includes social media and digital ads that will begin this week, followed in mid-June by television ads and a new website with shareable and printable educational materials for Maine people and businesses. DHHS plans to provide translated campaign materials to ensure its message reaches as broad an audience as possible and will work with partners in the health care, business, and other communities to amplify the campaign's messages.

Innovation Corner: AL Residents Start a Radio Show

Assisted living residents in Tennessee have taken up a new hobby: DJing a radio show, "Radio Recliner." The hosts and listeners say it's a great way to stay in touch while maintaining safe social distancing. Listeners can send song requests dedicated to family or friends, which are included in the daily show. Fresh content airs weekdays at noon, with previous segments playing in rotation. See the full story here:

<https://apnews.com/3d7ff97c0de0ec6282e2464776930542>

Thank you for all you do to care for your residents and staff.

Nadine L. Grosso
Vice President and Director of Communications
ngrosso@mehca.org