



mlnconnects

Official CMS news from the Medicare Learning Network®

SPECIAL EDITION

Monday, April 20, 2020

News

- Trump Administration Announces New Nursing Homes COVID-19 Transparency Effort
- CMS Issues Recommendations to Re-Open Health Care Systems in Areas with Low Incidence of COVID-19

News

Trump Administration Announces New Nursing Homes COVID-19 Transparency Effort

Agencies partner with nursing homes to keep nursing home residents safe

On April 19, under the leadership of President Trump, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced [new regulatory requirements](#) that will require nursing homes to inform residents, their families, and representatives of COVID-19 cases in their facilities. In addition, as part of President Trump's Opening Up America, CMS will now require nursing homes to report cases of COVID-19 directly to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This information must be reported in accordance with existing privacy regulations and statute. This measure augments longstanding requirements for reporting infectious disease to state and local health departments. Finally, CMS will also require nursing homes to fully cooperate with CDC surveillance efforts around COVID-19 spread.

CDC will be providing a reporting tool to nursing homes that will support federal efforts to collect nationwide data to assist in COVID-19 surveillance and response. This joint effort is a result of the CMS-CDC Work Group on Nursing Home Safety. CMS plans to make the data publicly available. This effort builds on recent recommendations from the [American Health Care Association](#) and [Leading Age](#), two large nursing home industry associations, that nursing homes quickly report COVID-19 cases.

This data sharing project is only the most recent in the Trump Administration's rapid and aggressive response to the COVID-19 pandemic. More details are available in the [Press Release](#) and [Guidance Memo](#).

CMS Issues Recommendations to Re-Open Health Care Systems in Areas with Low Incidence of COVID-19

On April 19, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services issued new recommendations specifically targeted to communities that are in Phase 1 of the Guidelines for President Trump's Opening Up America Again with low incidence or relatively low and stable incidence of COVID-19 cases. The recommendations update earlier guidance provided by CMS on limiting non-essential surgeries and medical procedures. The new CMS guidelines recommend a gradual transition and encourage health care providers to coordinate with local and state public health officials and to review the availability of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other supplies, workforce availability, facility readiness, and testing capacity when making the decision to re-start or increase in-person care.

The new recommendations can be found here: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/covid-flexibility-reopen-essential-non-covid-services.pdf>

The Guidelines for Opening Up America Again can be found here:
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/openingamerica/#criteria>

[Like the newsletter? Have suggestions? Please let us know!](#)

[Subscribe](#) to MLN Connects. Previous issues are available in the [archive](#).
This newsletter is current as of the issue date. View the complete [disclaimer](#).

Follow the MLN on [Twitter](#) #CMSMLN, and visit us on [YouTube](#).

The Medicare Learning Network®, MLN Connects®, and MLN Matters® are registered trademarks of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

