



COVID-19 Long-Term Care Facilities Letter of Direction: Guidance

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Acknowledged and Directed by the Director Division of Health Improvement of the Department of Health:

CB Christopher Burmeister

Acknowledged and Directed by the Cabinet Secretary of Aging and Long-Term Services Department:

KHL Katrina Hotrum-Lopez

Long-Term Care Guidance

Effective immediately, long-term care facilities including nursing homes and assisted living facilities will begin following the latest testing guidelines set forth by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid. Department of Health and Aging and Long-Term Services will no longer provide separate guidance.

2ND BOOSTER CLINIC SCHEDULING

The Aging and Long-Term Services Department will begin coordinating 2nd booster clinics to provide the opportunity for all staff and residents who qualify for a 2nd booster. All Long-Term Care Facilities shall provide at least two 2nd booster vaccine clinics before July 1, 2022. To ensure compliance include your scheduled clinic dates in your survey monkey monthly submission.

SURVEY REMINDER

All Long-Term Care Facilities shall participate in any survey set forth by the Aging and Long-Term Services Department regarding facility operations and the status of residents/staff. This includes the monthly survey regarding the vaccination status of staff/residents as well as COVID-19 positivity. The next survey is due on May 2, 2022, and is accessible through the link below (the link can be reused for each month after 05/02/2022),
Monthly Survey Link (next due 05/02/2022): <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JH392TC>

2ND BOOSTER HEALTHCARE PERSONNEL

All healthcare personnel within the state who meet the criteria for 2nd booster may receive one thereby following all vaccine recommendations set forth by the CDC and adhering to The Governor's public health order PHO120221 Amended Public Health Emergency Order Requiring all School workers comply with Certain Health Requirements and Requiring Congregate Care Facility Workers, Hospital Workers and Employees of the Office of the Governor Be Fully Vaccinated and Receive Booster Vaccines. Healthcare personnel who wish to wait until the fall at which time it may be more imperative to receive one may wait until then. At this time, healthcare personnel will be considered 'Fully Vaccinated' if they've had their initial series, with 1 booster under the most recent CDC guidance to date.

CDC guidance related to 2nd boosters for Healthcare Personnel:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/vaccines/Second-COVID-19-Booster.pdf>.

NM Public Health Order for vaccination of Healthcare Personnel:

<https://cv.nmhealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/PHO120221.pdf>

ANTIGEN COVID-19 TEST KIT DISTRIBUTION

The Aging and Long-Term Services Department will begin distributing antigen COVID-19 test kits to individual facilities. Upon exhaustion of these test kits, long-term care facilities will be responsible for purchasing their allocation to stay in compliance with testing guidelines.



Links to CDC/CMS guidelines are below:

CMS:

Interim Final Rule (IFC), CMS-3401-IFC, Additional Policy, and Regulatory Revisions in Response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency related to Long-Term Care (LTC) Facility Testing Requirements

<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/gso-20-38-nh-revised.pdf>

CDC:

Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations to Prevent SARS-CoV-2 Spread in Nursing Homes

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/long-term-care.html#:~:text=New%20Infection%20in%20Healthcare%20Personnel%20or%20Residents>

Interim Guidance for Managing Healthcare Personnel with SARS-CoV-2 Infection or Exposure to SARS-CoV-2

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-risk-assesment-hcp.html>

Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html>