



Indiana
Department
of
Health

Long-term Care NEWSLETTER

LTC Newsletter 2020-67
October 27, 2020

Long-term Care Update:

- CNA Training Waivers
 - Order to Facilitate Nurse Aide Training During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency
 - Order to Expedite Certified Nurse Aide Training for Personal Care Attendants and Temporary Nurse Aides During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency
 - Nurse Aide Training Programs Online Classroom Approvals
- Strike Team Information W's
- Toolkit Information – Signage & Screening Tools

CMS Information:

- Letter to Residents

CNA Training Waivers

Over the weekend, the Indiana Department of Health issued two new emergency orders designed to help ease the current CNA staffing crisis and increase the emphasis on COVID-19.

The first order – [Order to Facilitate Nurse Aide Training During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency](#) – temporarily reduces the total hours of required CNA training from 105 to 75, the CMS minimum. It also requires 24 hours of in-facility training (including all mandated “supervised practical training”) and specifies that three hours of training must be COVID-focused.

The second order – [Order to Expedite Certified Nurse Aide Training for Personal Care Attendants and Temporary Nurse Aides During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency](#) – temporarily authorizes abbreviated CNA training for persons who already are Personal Care Attendants (PCAs) or Temporary Nursing Aides (TNAs) under orders issued earlier this year. Importantly, this shortened training recognizes prior PCA/TNA training and grants credit for 49 hours of in-facility work experience as a PCA or TNA. (**Important note:** CMS has authorized Indiana to proceed with this training but final review by Central Office is still pending. For that reason, we recommend that programs wait until we get a final thumbs-up – expected within two weeks – before utilizing this abbreviated training.)

The state Department of Health understands facilities may still have trouble finding and hiring CNAs even with the benefit of these orders. Accordingly, the Department remains willing to consider additional CNA training flexibilities where warranted on a case-by-case, fact-specific basis.

Another CNA Training Note

Beyond issuing these emergency orders, the Indiana Department of Health has reinterpreted one of its rules in a way that should give CNA training programs additional relief. Effective immediately, some or all of the required 30 hours of classroom instruction may be conducted online. In addition, the Department will not require pre-approval of new online or hybrid instruction so long as it receives advance or concurrent email notice of any change at ISDHLTCTrainingPrograms@isdh.in.gov. This reinterpretation will remain in effect following expiration of the public health emergency.

Anyone who has questions about the new emergency orders, the rule reinterpretation, or any other aspect of CNA training may contact Jan Kulik (jkulik@isdh.in.gov) or Nancy Adams (nadams1@isdh.in.gov).

Strike Team Information W's

WHAT: The Long-term Care/Congregate Care/Industry COVID-19 Strike Team Request email

WHO: The Strike Team consists of registered nurses, epidemiologists, and public health professionals that are knowledgeable in CDC, CMS, and the Indiana Department of Health COVID-19 guidelines for Long-term Care facilities, Industries [workplaces employing 50 or more people], and Congregate Care settings [prisons, homeless shelters, group homes, etc.].

WHY: Contact the Strike Team via e-mail if you have questions about LTC, Industry, or Congregate Care COVID-19 guidelines, outbreak guidance, POC/antigen testing, infection control, or need assistance with onsite infection control visits or outbreak testing.

WHERE: Email the team at StrikeTeamRequest@isdh.IN.gov

COVID-19 Toolkit

The following items have been added to the Long-term Care Toolkit website :

- [Signage – Green Zone, Yellow Zone, Red Zone](#)
- [Employee Screening Tool – Fit for Duty](#)
- [Visitor Screening Tool](#)

CMS - Letter to residents regarding voting

Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Administrator Verma letter to residents regarding residents' right and assistance to vote by their facilities. This letter should be distributed to all residents.

[CMS letter from Administrator Verma](#)

Questions: LongTermCareOmbudsman@ombudsman.IN.gov

Information/complaint line: 800-622-4484 or 317-232-7134