

## 2019 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS ILLNESS (COVID-19) GUIDANCE

**TITLE:** Reporting Guidance for Nursing and Long-Term Care Facilities Concerning 2019 Novel Coronavirus Illness

**DATE:** [May 18, 2020](#)

**TO:** Nursing Facilities and Long-Term Care Facilities in Kansas

**FROM:** Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services

**SUMMARY:** Guidance for Reporting to Residents and Family Members about COVID-19 Positive Patients and Staff Members in NFs and LTCFs

### GUIDANCE:

KDADS recommends that nursing facilities, long term care facilities, and other adult care homes do everything possible to notify residents and responsible parties of positive COVID-19 cases in their facilities. That includes patients, residents and staff that have confirmed COVID-19. This recommendation is consistent with directives issued by CMS to nursing facilities on April 19, 2020 [and on May 6, 2020](#) to provide increased transparency around COVID-19 cases.

Current federal regulations (42 CFR 483.80) and CDC guidance specify that nursing homes must notify State or Local health departments about residents or staff with suspected or confirmed COVID-19, residents with severe respiratory infection resulting in hospitalization or death, or 3 or more residents or staff with new-onset respiratory symptoms within 72 hours of each other. CMS and CDC will soon provide nursing homes with specific direction on standard formatting and frequency for reporting this information through the CDC's National Health Safety Network (NHSN) system. The required collection of this information will be used to support surveillance of COVID-19 locally and nationally, monitor trends in infection rates, and inform public health policies and actions.

In addition to reporting COVID-19 positive cases to state and local health departments, facilities must report positive cases in residents and/or staff to the KDADS hotline at 800-842-0078.

[The CMS guidance issued on May 6<sup>th</sup> and the interim final rule published CMS requires facilities to notify residents and their representatives to keep them informed of the conditions inside the facility.](#) At a minimum, nursing homes must inform residents and their representatives:

- [By 5pm the next calendar day following](#) the occurrence of a single confirmed infection of COVID-19;

- or three or more residents or staff with new onset of respiratory symptoms that occur within 72 hours.

The CMS guidance also directs weekly updates to residents and their representatives, or each subsequent time a confirmed infection of COVID-19 is identified and/or whenever three or more residents or staff with new onset of respiratory symptoms occurs within 72 hours.

Facilities will include information on mitigating actions implemented to prevent or reduce the risk of transmission, including if normal operations in the nursing home will be altered. This information must be reported in accordance with existing privacy regulations and statutes.

The [CDC](#) and [CMS](#) have guidance documents for facilities to describe when and how information should be shared with residents and family members.