

COVID-19 Webinar for Nursing Care Centers Accreditation

Q&A With The Joint Commission

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Panel

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Pre-Submitted Questions

Can you address allowing visitors into the nursing care setting?

Pre-Submitted Questions

How is COVID transmitted? How do we prevent the spread of COVID?

Pre-Submitted Questions

Is there an update regarding the immunity or protection from repeated infections with SARS-CoV?

Pre-Submitted Questions

Can you please discuss any updates regarding resident testing? If a resident is negative do we need to retest? If so, when?

Pre-Submitted Questions

Is it necessary to keep a log of all employees' temperatures if that clinician is not seeing patients?

Pre-Submitted Questions

What source control measures should we implement in our facility?

What PPE should I wear?



COVID-19 Patient?	Aerosol Generating Procedure?	Spread of COVID in community?	Type of PPE
Yes	Yes	Any level	N95, face/eye protection, gloves, gown
Yes	No	Any level	N95 or mask, face/eye protection, gown, gloves
No/ Unknown	Yes	Any level	N95 or mask and face/eye protection, gloves, gown
No/Unknown	No	Moderate or Substantial	Mask and eye protection *
No/ Unknown	No	Minimal or None	Mask or cloth covering (source control) *

* Additional PPE as required by Standard and Transmission based Precautions

Pre-Submitted Questions

What will be the expectations of training for staff on proper PPE and donning and doffing? Will a demonstrated observed competency be required?

Pre-Submitted Questions

What are the major barriers to good infection control and prevention practices in nursing care centers?

Pre-Submitted Questions

What will surveyors focus on in upcoming surveys regarding infection control during COVID-19?

Pre-Submitted Questions

Can you speak to updating infection control plans relative to COVID? Will future clinical standards reflect hospital preparedness for pandemic management?

The Joint Commission Return to Survey Activity

- In addition to conducting accreditation surveys and certification reviews, we have been advocating for the safety and wellbeing of health care workers at the highest levels of policy making.
- We want to assure you that we want to work together to reduce your risk and ours during the on-site survey/ review process.

Your Questions

You have had a number of questions about our return to survey/review:

- How or when will we get a survey/review?
- What will that survey/review process look like, any differences?
- What type of instructions have you provided your surveyors/reviewers?
- What will the surveyors/reviewers focus on?

When and how will survey activity resume?

- Survey/review activity has started in low risk areas – includes all programs
- Low risk criteria
 - Number of COVID-19 cases are lower and less impact to organizations
 - the # cases/thousand population and new cases within the county
 - Determination that our staff can travel to that area safely and find appropriate accommodations.
- In addition, your Account Executive will contact you to determine your readiness.
- We are aware that surveys/reviews are past their due dates, CMS is also aware – we will conduct those surveys/reviews when we are able.
- Prioritized initials and past due organizations. We will also be looking for organizations due in the next few months that meet the low risk criteria and are currently ready for survey.

What instructions have been provided to surveyors/reviewers ?

- Do not travel if you are sick
- Do not travel if you have been in close contact with known or suspected COVID-19 patients
- When traveling they are required to wear a mask/face covering
- Required to wear a mask on survey/ review and follow the organization's guidelines. The organization will provide the PPE to the surveyor/ reviewer as required by their policy.
- Practice physical distancing
- Practice good hand hygiene
- Follow CDC guidelines

What has changed about the survey process?

The survey/review process and its components will remain the same however here are some guidelines for the survey/review:

- Limiting the number of individuals in group sessions
- Using audio or videoconferencing could be incorporated to safely expand the number of attendees for sessions
- Using masks will be a routine practice
- Maximizing the use of technology to eliminate the number of people needed to sit directly next to an individual for an extended period of time. For example, screen sharing or projecting medical records.
- Interviewing patients and staff by telephone
- Driving in separate cars to off-site or patient homes

Survey/Review Process - Continued

- We will NOT enter an at-risk or confirmed COVID-19 home or room. We will not visit a unit with any confirmed COVID-19 patients.
- Limited physical review of high risk and aerosol generating procedures
- Consider using a simulation and/or distant review of certain activities/procedures
- Practice social/physical distancing during the survey
- Follow PPE and risk reduction strategies as established by the CDC
- Limit attendance at group sessions (e.g., opening, briefings, system tracers)
- Limit observers or scribes to avoid additional exposure during the survey

What will be the focus of survey activities?

- During the opening conference we will have discussion with you about the impact of the current pandemic and your organization's response.
- We will discuss both infection control and emergency management.
- The focus of our survey will not be the timeframe of the public health emergency but the current situation within your organization.

Additional Information

- We would ask that you do not provide additional avoid dates due to the difficulty in scheduling surveys – avoid dates already submitted will be honored to the extent we can
- **Virtual surveys** – early surveys and initial surveys have occurred in some programs (Hospital, Behavioral, Lab, Nursing Care Centers, Critical Access Hospital and Home Care)
- Virtual event is a combination of:
 - Secure Zoom technology for the survey and facility review
 - Use of a secure SharePoint site for document upload to review pre-survey
 - Initial surveys conducted virtually will have a follow-up survey on-site
 - Organization is contacted to verify ability and willingness to participate

Pre-Submitted Questions

Would Joint Commission surveys change for telephone or virtual at primary care?

Pre-Submitted Questions

Will The Joint Commission have their own screening process for surveyors in addition to us screening them at the door?

Pre-Submitted Questions

What will The Joint Commission survey look for related to COVID-19?

Pre-Submitted Questions

What will the focus of the annual reviews be in the coming surveys?

Pre-Submitted Questions

Can you give an update regarding Joint Commission survey schedules, processes for sites with pending surveys?

Pre-Submitted Questions

What are some safe practices in conducting fire drills with COVID-19 concerns?

Pre-Submitted Questions

We have waiting rooms that we have had to move chairs out of and into the hall to allow for social distancing. This causes the corridor to be constricted to 57 free inches. Is that allowable?

Pre-Submitted Questions

How long do we have to get modified construction back to code?

Pre-Submitted Questions

How long will the current waivers for CNAs remain in effect?

COVID-19 Resources

Accreditation & Certification ▾

Standards ▾

Measurement ▾

Performance Improvement ▾

Resources ▾

About Us ▾

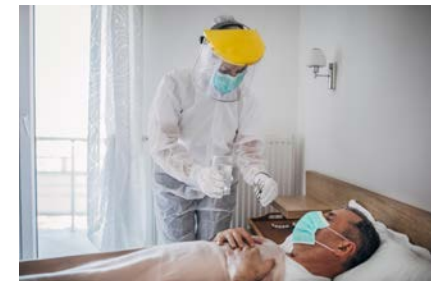
What Your Organization Needs to Know About the Coronavirus

Trusted Guidance. Trusted Resources.

 [View resources](#)

Thank You

We support your efforts
in response to the
COVID-19 pandemic
and hope to provide
helpful resources



Resources

- COVID Resources

- <https://www.jointcommission.org/covid-19/>

- Standards Interpretation

- <https://www.jointcommission.org/standards/standard-faqs/>