

April 1, 2020

Dear Colleague,

Due to the continued spread of COVID-19, all regular Joint Commission surveys and reviews will remain on hold until the end of May. This announcement comes after we announced on March 17 that regular surveys were suspended until further notice.

We make this determination now as information from federal and state governments indicates that social distancing recommendations and stay-at-home orders will be in effect for longer than originally anticipated.

All postponed survey events will occur once normal operations are resumed. If any organizations go past their accreditation due date, accreditation will be extended without disruption to their accreditation status. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has assured that Medicare payment status will not be affected.

The Joint Commission is continuing to redirect our resources to best assist you during this ever-changing and stressful time. You may be contacted virtually by a Joint Commission surveyor in the coming weeks who can provide support.

Other available resources include:

- **Our [Standards Interpretation Group](#)**, which is available to answer questions about Joint Commission recommendations and requirements. They also have been answering the most frequent questions related to COVID-19 daily on our [social media](#).
- **[Webinars on preparing for the impact of COVID 19](#)**. Last week we presented a [webinar](#) on managing the COVID-19 threat in the behavioral health care setting, and webinars on preventing the spread of coronavirus in hospitals, nursing care centers, and ambulatory health care settings will be coming soon.
- A **[coronavirus resource portal](#)**, available on our website, which provides current guidance and recommendations for staff as they engage in the front lines of this pandemic.
- A **[public statement supporting the use of masks brought from home](#)**, along with additional guidance for keeping health care workers safe when PPE is in short supply.

We hope these resources are helpful to you and your organization as you continue to develop your

response to COVID-19. Your Account Executive is also available to connect you with resources and answer questions.

Sincerely,

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