

August 14, 2020

Removal of Position Statement: Preventing Nosocomial COVID-19 Infections as Organizations Resume Regular Care Delivery

The Joint Commission is removing the Position Statement: Preventing Nosocomial COVID-19 Infections as Organizations Resume Regular Care Delivery. This guidance document was originally written in May, 2020 when COVID-19 cases in the U.S. were declining, healthcare organizations were rapidly working to resume elective procedures and ambulatory care, and The Joint Commission was receiving many questions regarding reopening. Unfortunately, COVID-19 cases surged across many parts of the country that had been relatively unaffected, and we are now in a very different situation; healthcare organizations are trying to balance providing safe, routine care while combatting the continuing epidemic amidst persistent shortages of personal protective equipment (PPE).

The situation in the U.S. continues to evolve, and we have heard from a number of professional societies and healthcare organizations that sections of the position statement were problematic because of the changes in the COVID-19 epidemic and our understanding of the science around COVID-19 transmission. The CDC has updated their guidance to address some of the issues discussed in the position statement, including definitions of contingency strategies and crisis standards of care for conservation of PPE and when these should be applied. For these reasons, we believe the position statement is no longer useful, so we are removing it from the website.