

COVID-19 Webinar for Disease-Specific Care Certification

Q&A With The Joint Commission

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Panel

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Infection Control Practices

Pre-Submitted Questions

Where can I find best practices for COVID-19 including topics such as:

Methods for detecting COVID-19 virus

Preventing and controlling COVID-19

Limiting exposure to COVID-19 in the healthcare setting

Resources:

OSHA COVID-19 Healthcare ETS

<https://www.osha.gov/coronavirus/ets>

Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Healthcare

Personnel During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html>

Pre-Submitted Questions

Where can I find guidelines for discontinuing isolation precautions for COVID-19 positive patients while still in the hospital?

Resource:

Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html>

Pre-Submitted Questions

When can hospitals begin to remove COVID-19 related restrictions and activities?

Resources:

OSHA COVID-19 Healthcare ETS

<https://www.osha.gov/coronavirus/ets>

Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html>

Pre-Submitted Questions

What type of records related to COVID-19 positive staff do organizations need to keep, and will the records be reviewed during survey?

Resource:

OSHA COVID-19 Healthcare ETS

<https://www.osha.gov/coronavirus/ets>

Pre-Submitted Questions

In the event of PPE shortages, is it appropriate to hang isolation gowns up for reuse?

Resource:

Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of Isolation Gowns

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/isolation-gowns.html>

Pre-Submitted Questions

Do staff need to wear PPE (specifically isolation gowns) in the hallway of the COVID unit?

Resource:

Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html>

Pre-Submitted Questions

Where can I find guidance on extending use or reusing N95 respirators and other approved respirators?

Resources:

OSHA COVID-19 Healthcare ETS

<https://www.osha.gov/coronavirus/ets>

Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of N95 Respirators

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/respirators-strategy/index.html>

Recovery and The Joint Commission

The Joint Commission return to review activity

- In addition to conducting accreditation surveys and certification reviews, we have been advocating for the safety and wellbeing of healthcare 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 onsite review process.

Your questions

You have had a number of questions about our certification review process:

- Will my review be onsite or offsite?
- What will that review process look like, any differences?
- What type of instruction have you provided your reviewers?
- What will the reviewers focus on?

Offsite (Virtual) Review

- **Offsite (virtual) review**– for all recertification programs and initial core programs
- Organizations will be contacted via a Qualtrics survey to indicate that their program is ready to be scheduled.
- Offsite 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-review
- An Offsite Review Dry Run Resource Document is now available to support customers with links to videos to walk through the technology.

Onsite Review Activity

- Review activity in low risk areas – only for Initial Advanced programs, Medication Compounding, and Integrated Care Certification
- 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 AE will contact you to determine your readiness.
- We are aware that reviews are past their due dates, CMS is also aware – we will conduct those reviews when we are able to do so.
- Prioritizing initials and past due organizations.

What instructions have been provided to our field staff ?

- 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 reviews and follow the organizations' guidelines. The organization will provide the PPE to the reviewer as required by their policy.**
- Practice physical distancing
- Practice good hand hygiene
- Follow CDC guidelines

What instructions have been provided to our reviewers?

The Joint Commission is requiring staff (reviewers) that interact with organizations to be fully vaccinated by October 18, 2021.

What has changed about the review process?

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

- Limiting the number of individuals in group sessions
- The use of audio or videoconferencing could be incorporated to safely expand the number of attendees for sessions
- Use of masks will be a routine practice
- Maximize 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 offsite or patient homes unless everyone in the car is vaccinated

Review process - continued

- We will NOT Enter at risk or confirmed COVID-19 rooms or homes.
- We will avoid visiting a unit with any confirmed COVID-19 patients when possible.
- 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 review
- Follow “PPE” and risk reduction strategies as established by the CDC
- Limit attendance at group sessions e.g., opening, briefings, system tracers
- Limiting observers or scribes to avoid additional exposure during the review

What will be the focus of review activities?

During the opening conference we will have a discussion with you about the impact of the current pandemic and your organization's response.

- The focus of our review will not be the timeframe of the public health emergency but the current situation within your organization.

Pre-Submitted Questions

Can you provide suggestions regarding the logistics of a virtual recertification with what has been helpful or a hindrance in other facilities?

Pre-Submitted Questions

Please explain rationale used to decide whether or not a facility will be surveyed.

Pre-Submitted Questions

Will we have the ability to use block out dates for the follow-up to a virtual survey?

Pre-Submitted Questions

I'm interested in what exactly is needed prior to a DSC Stroke recertification review, especially if virtual.

Pre-Submitted Questions

Does The Joint Commission expect to be on time with the upcoming surveys?

Pre-Submitted Questions

Are there current delays with scheduled survey windows? E.g., 1/1/22 to 4/1/22

Pre-Submitted Questions

If we are outside our scheduling window for our recertification visit, does The Joint Commission send a new window? Are we allowed to update our days that we prefer The Joint Commission not come?

Pre-Submitted Questions

What is the outlook for continuing virtual DSCs in the fall/winter? Are there any updated planning tools/resources for virtual surveys?

Pre-Submitted Questions

Can we please get specific details on exactly how to prepare for a virtual survey.

Pre-Submitted Questions

We've been told that Joint Commission surveyors will be reviewing documentation prior to the pandemic. Is this still the case?

Pre-Submitted Questions

Initial Primary Heart Attack Center (PHAC) certifications. Are these being conducted in person? Potential to go virtual?

Pre-Submitted Questions

Please comment on how hospital disease certification surveys (i.e. comprehensive stroke) may be affected as well; what's the current Joint Commission strategy?

Pre-Submitted Questions

Are DSC certification reviews still occurring virtually or on-site? Our organization was told our DSC window was moved up on the calendar - what should we expect?

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](#)

Resources

- COVID Resources

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

- Standards Interpretation

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

Thank You

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

