

# Joint Commission Online

April 21, 2021

## Quality and safety

### Lab Week 2021 kicks off



In recognition of Medical Laboratory Professionals Week, The Joint Commission has created a webpage dedicated to celebrating the many contributions these heroes make. Occurring April 18-24, Lab Week honors the work performed by laboratory professionals and pathologists who play a crucial role in providing critical services that contribute to the delivery of effective care to patients.

The Joint Commission's [Lab Week 2021 webpage](#) features:

- Stories from professionals:
  - Gloria Zuroff, MT (ASCP), MBA, Laboratory Surveyor
  - Diane Avenoso, MPH, MT(ASCP), SBB, CQA(ASQ), Laboratory Field Staff
  - Heather Hurley, Executive Director, Laboratory Accreditation & Health Systems Strategic Accounts
  - Elia Mears, MHA, MT(ASCP)SM, Laboratory Surveyor
  - Caleb Bardy, MBA, MLS(ASCP), Business Development Manager, Laboratory Accreditation & Patient Blood Management Certification
  - Ron Quicho, MS, MBA, Associate Director, Standards Development and Interpretation, Joint Commission International
  - Eileen Stawczyk, MT (ASCP), Laboratory Specialist, Accreditation and Certification Operations
- A [spotlight Q&A](#) with Dr. John Russell Forney, PhD, MT(ASCP), Laboratory Surveyor, The Joint Commission.
- A [video](#) celebrating the week.
- A [new blog](#) from the Laboratory Accreditation team on medical lab technologists being the “Avengers of the Lab” in how they have responded to the COVID-19 testing challenge.

Join the Lab Week 2021 conversation on social media by posting a message on The Joint Commission's [Laboratory Accreditation LinkedIn page](#) using the following hashtags:

- **#LabWeek2021**
- **#qualitycarebeginsinthelab**

## Accreditation and certification

### Effective immediately: Aisle widths in hospital, CAH suites must be 36 inches at minimum

Now in effect, Joint Commission Life Safety Code® surveyors will cite noncompliance in suites with aisles that have less than 36 inches of clearance from side to side to facilitate egress. This requirement follows the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) Life Safety Code (NFPA 101–2012), Section 7.3.4.1(2), in the core chapter on egress, which sets the minimum width of any means of egress at 36 inches in all facilities or portions of facilities classified as health care occupancy.

This requirement applies to Joint Commission-accredited hospitals and critical access hospitals that use the suite provisions of the code and, depending on their building occupancy classification, may apply to behavioral health care and human services organizations, facility-based hospice facilities, and nursing care centers.

### In this issue

- Lab Week 2021 kicks off
- Effective immediately: Aisle widths in hospital, CAH suites must be 36 inches at minimum
- Building Maintenance Program section being removed from LS chapter for hospitals, CAHs
- Coming soon: Revisions for Ventricular Assist Device Destination Therapy Certification
- Up in the blogosphere with The Joint Commission

The finding will be scored at Life Safety (LS) Standard LS.02.01.20, element of performance (EP) 42, which requires organizations to maintain the integrity of the means of egress in accordance with the Life Safety Code. (Contact: Leah Hummel, [lhummel@jointcommission.org](mailto:lhummel@jointcommission.org))

### **Building Maintenance Program section being removed from LS chapter for hospitals, CAHs**

Effective July 1, The Joint Commission is deleting the Building Maintenance Program (BMP) section from its Life Safety (LS) chapters for the Hospital and Critical Access Hospital Accreditation programs.

The BMP is an optional, voluntary program to help identify, track and manage Life Safety Code® deficiencies. As many organizations have a similar process and program to help identify and manage Life Safety Code deficiencies, the BMP no longer needs to be included in the LS chapter. (Contact: Herman McKenzie, [hmckenzie@jointcommission.org](mailto:hmckenzie@jointcommission.org))

### **Coming soon: Revisions for Ventricular Assist Device Destination Therapy Certification**

In December 2020, the U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released a [decision memo](#) specific to the [national coverage determination](#) (NCD) for ventricular assist devices (VADs) and revisions of the Medicare National Coverage Determinations Manual for VADs for bridge-to-transplant and destination therapy.

These changes will affect the VAD Destination Therapy Certification advanced certification program, and The Joint Commission is updating the advanced VAD Certification program accordingly. More details will be shared in an upcoming issue of *Perspectives*. (Contact: Angela Murray, [amurray@jointcommission.org](mailto:amurray@jointcommission.org))

## **Resources**

### **Up in the blogosphere with The Joint Commission**

- **High Reliability Healthcare** — [Addressing Vaccine Hesitancy to Protect One Another](#): Though the supply of COVID-19 vaccines is improving in the United States, we are facing another challenge in vaccine hesitancy, writes Anne Marie Benedicto, Vice President, Joint Commission Center for Transforming Healthcare.
- **On Infection Prevention Control** — [Understanding CDC's New Masking Recommendations](#): The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) recommendations surrounding masking has generated a lot of questions since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Recently, several questions have come our way on the CDC guidelines on mask fit and double masking, writes Tiffany Wiksten, MSN, RN-CIC.

Learn more about [Joint Commission Resources](#)' offerings online or call 877-223-6866.

