COVID-19 Webinar for Ambulatory Health Care Accreditation

Q&A With The Joint Commission

February 11, 2021
Today’s Panel

**Dana Dunn**, MBA, RN, CNOR, CASC  
Field Director  
Surveyor Management & Development  
The Joint Commission

**Sylvia Garcia-Houchins**, MBA, RN, CIC  
Director  
Infection Prevention and Control  
The Joint Commission

**Brittnay Hull**  
Lead Account Executive  
Accreditation and Certification Operations  
The Joint Commission

**Jim Kendig**, MS, CHSP, CHCM, HEM, LHRM  
Field Director  
Accreditation and Certification Operations  
The Joint Commission

**Maura Naddy**, MSN, RNC-OB  
Associate Director  
Standards Interpretation Group  
The Joint Commission

**Tiffany Wiksten**, MSN, RN, CIC  
Associate Director  
Standards Interpretation Group  
The Joint Commission
Infection Control Practices
Pre-Submitted Questions

What are the Joint Commission standards related to employee PPE in ambulatory settings with patients?
Do healthcare workers need to wear a mask at all times while in the healthcare facility?

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Healthcare Facilities: Managing Operations During the COVID-19 Pandemic
Pre-Submitted Questions

What type of mask should clinical staff wear if a patient phone screen for COVID-19 was completed and then they were screened again for COVID-19 prior to entry along with a temperature check?

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Healthcare Facilities: Managing Operations During the COVID-19 Pandemic
Pre-Submitted Questions

What are the Personal Protective Equipment requirements for aerosol vs. non-aerosol dental procedures?

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Covid-19 Guidance for Dental Settings
What PPE should staff wear in COVID testing centers and COVID vaccine clinics?

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
COVID-19 Vaccine Training
https://www2.cdc.gov/vaccines/ed/covid19/SHVA/30010.asp
Pre-Submitted Questions

Can we extend the use of isolation gowns when performing COVID testing?

Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of Isolation Gowns
Pre-Submitted Questions

Do organizations need to perform another N95 mask fit test for all individuals that were previously fit tested in 2020?

OSHA Temporary Guidance Enforcement


Pre-Submitted Questions

What are the biggest concerns when reusing N95 respirators?

Implementing Filtering Facepiece Respirator (FFR) Reuse, Including Reuse after Decontamination, When There Are Known Shortages of N95 Respirators
Pre-Submitted Questions

In what departments can KN95 masks be used? Are they excluded from use in the Operating Room?

CDC Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of N95 Respirators

FDA Personal Protective Equipment EUAs
Pre-Submitted Questions

How should face shields be stored for reuse and what is the maximum number of uses?

Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of Eye Protection
Pre-Submitted Questions

How do we properly don/doff PPE when radiology shields are needed?

Using Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
Pre-Submitted Questions

How do I dispose of PPE that was worn for the care of a COVID patient if it is not visibly soiled?

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

Are there any tips for enforcing social distancing during staff lunch breaks?

Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic
Can new technologies be used to disinfect the healthcare environment?
Pre-Submitted Questions

How long do we need to keep screening questionnaires for the staff/vendors coming into the facility?
Pre-Submitted Questions

Is Infection Control Certification required?
Pre-Submitted Questions

Are there any Infection Control issues for healthcare workers with long facial hair?

Occupational Safety and Health Administration
Respiratory Protection
Environment of Care and Life Safety
Pre-Submitted Questions

If the ASC was temporarily shut down to serve as a COVID-19 testing center, what should be documented? What are you going to look for?
Pre-Submitted Questions

Do you have any helpful resources for a COVID-19 Functional Exercise Evaluation?

Resources:
https://asprtracie.hhs.gov/MasterSearch?qt=drill+evaluations&limit=20&page=1

Pre-Submitted Questions

During the August 13 webinar, it was discussed that instead of doing a fire drill that is physically participated in, a verbal fire drill would suffice. Is this still the case? Would this apply to all disaster-type drills?
Pre-Submitted Questions

What is the frequency requirement for a documented orientation program as it relates to the waiver requirements?
Pre-Submitted Questions

What is considered a documented orientation program as it relates to the waiver requirements specific to intent of content? Printed, electronic, staff meetings, etc.
Pre-Submitted Questions

What is considered a documented orientation program as it relates to the waiver requirements specific to having the ability to provide documentation as proof of compliance, including does this require all accredited campus staff to have something documented once each quarter or once annually or both/other?
Pre-Submitted Questions

Are there any changes to the requirements for disaster drills/full scale drills during the pandemic? Specifically, we have not been able to conduct a full-scale exercise due to pandemic and direct health measure locally.
Pre-Submitted Questions

What are HVAC and ASHPD requirements for older locations?
Pre-Submitted Questions

We have a Medical Equipment Management Policy that states equipment will be tested annually by our internal personnel. What workaround could you suggest as we are trying to keep all employees distanced in order to avoid staffing shortages?
Pre-Submitted Questions

If a new building is being constructed (new construction), are there any recommendations or guidelines that should be followed at the start of construction related to COVID?
Pre-Submitted Questions

How do we mitigate the risks associated with large quantities of med gases in a suite if they obviously exceed the allowable amounts per smoke compartment?
Recovery and The Joint Commission
Your Questions

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

• How or when will we get a survey?
• What will that survey process look like, any differences?
• What type of instruction have you provided your surveyors?
• What will the surveyors focus on?
When and how will survey activity occur?

• Survey 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 AE will contact you to determine your readiness.
• We are aware that surveys are past their due dates, CMS is also aware – we will conduct those surveys when we are able to do so.
• 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.
Offsite (Virtual) Survey

- **Offsite (virtual) survey**—may be scheduled for some organizations who meet eligibility criteria
- Eligible organizations will be contacted via a Qualtrics survey or other outreach from our staff (phone call or email) to confirm their ability to participate
- 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-survey
- A dry run test of technology will be conducted prior to the event
- Most offsite events will have a follow-up onsite event.
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 do so
• Offsite/virtual activity continues to expand
• We will work with you to ensure you are ready and prepared.
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 survey and follow the organizations’ guidelines. The organization will provide the PPE to the surveyor as required by their policy.**
- Practice physical distancing
- Practice good hand hygiene
- Follow CDC guidelines
What has changed about the survey process?

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

• 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
Survey 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 survey
• 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 survey
What will be the focus of survey activities?

During the opening conference we will have a 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.
CMS 1135 Waivers
Can you review the CMS waivers again and when they actually end or if they will be extended?
Public Health Emergency (PHE) Extension

The Department of Health and Human Services released a statement on Thursday, 01/07/21 stating the PHE was extended.

The renewal effective date is Thursday 01/21/21 and will last for 90 days.

This is the fourth extension of the PHE.

1135 Waivers will remain in effect during the declared PHE.
Looking for more information on CMS 1135 Waivers?

Accredited organizations can learn more by visiting Resources and Tools > Tools > Learn More in their Joint Commission Connect® extranet site.
Pre-Submitted Questions

Would you please clarify if there is any current grace for staff annual education/competencies in 2020?
Pre-Submitted Questions

Is there a waiver for compliance with scheduled drills that were not able to be undertaken due to COVID-related staff changes, office closures, and distancing protocols?
Pre-Submitted Questions

In terms of documentation, initially The Joint Commission issued a statement that accredited organizations would have 60 days following the end of the national disaster to complete their activities, i.e., annual fire drill for a business occupancy, etc.
Pre-Submitted Questions

If your visit is some time away, what documentation needs to be kept/logged to show what steps you took during the COVID pandemic?
Pre-Submitted Questions

Do health centers need to develop new infection control policies according to COVID-19 or update the existing ones including COVID-19 protocols?
Pre-Submitted Questions

Do you have any time horizon on how long the waiver allowing discussion-based training in lieu of conducting evacuation drills due to the desired reduction in massing staff together during the current COVID pandemic will remain in effect?
Pre-Submitted Questions

If we need to lay off medical providers for a period of 2-3 months, how do you manage credentialling when they return? New and/or renewal?
Pre-Submitted Questions

What are the survey expectations from the Biomed department during COVID?
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/