Nursing Care Center Accreditation

COVID-19 Q & A Webinar

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Panel

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Your questions

You have asked several questions about our survey process during COVID-19:

- How has the survey process evolved over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic?
- How will overdue surveys be addressed?
- What will survey process look like, any differences?
- What type of instruction have you provided your surveyors?
- What will the surveyors focus on?
How has the survey process evolved over the course of the COVID-19 Pandemic?

• We have returned to onsite surveys from virtual/off-site model
• 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
• We will prioritize initials and past due organizations
• The length of the survey has not changed
How do you determine where to conduct onsite surveys?

Community Prevalence Dashboard

- Number of COVID-19 cases are lower with less impact to organizations
- Cases/thousand population and new cases within the county
- Determination that our staff can travel to area safely and find appropriate accommodations

https://www.jointcommission.org/resources/research/operations-support-research/
What instructions have been provided to our surveyors?

• **Follow the most current CDC guidelines**
• Do not travel if you are sick
• Do not travel if you have been in close contact with individuals with known or suspected COVID-19
• Avoid large crowds
• Wear a mask/face covering during flights
• Practice good hand hygiene
What instructions have been provided to our surveyors? (continued)

- Review and follow individual state department of health specific travel regulations
- When onsite in the NCC wear a medical mask
- **Follow the organizations’ infection prevention and control policies for entry and use of PPE**
- Do NOT enter at risk or confirmed COVID-19 resident rooms
- Do NOT enter rooms where high-risk procedures performed
What will be the focus of survey activities?

• During the opening conference, the surveyor will have a discussion with you about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and your organization’s response

• We will discuss Infection Control, Emergency Management, and the role of leadership
When will the post-virtual onsite surveys be conducted?

• Specific plans are being finalized and they will be shared soon
Additional Questions

For onsite surveys, should staff/surveyors be vaccinated?

• The Joint Commission does not require surveyors receive a COVID-19 vaccine, although it is encouraged

• Many surveyors are vaccinated
We're surveyed under Hospital program for our Hospital and NCC for our long-term care: we get both surveys at the same time.

My Question: Is it possible to have 2 different surveys this time (located): on-site for hospital (Deemed) and virtual for our NCC (Not Deemed)
Pre-Submitted Questions

What is The Joint Commission doing to catch up on inspections, especially coming into Flu season on top of COVID? Has there been a timeline set for full recovery?
Pre-Submitted Questions

Status of Accreditation during COVID?

Important Updates
- Offsite Survey Required Documents and Agendas
- Change in Holiday Observance
- Status of Onsite Survey Activity
- Accreditation Update
- Special considerations for surveys during, after...
- Joint Commission suspending all regular surve...
Infection Control
Pre-Submitted Questions

As our states open up, can we still require visitors to wash their hands, fill out a questionnaire about symptoms, and take their temperature? Can we require proof of vaccination?

Resource:
Pre-Submitted Questions

How soon will Nursing Care Centers be able to stop routine testing on non-vaccinated staff that refuse to be vaccinated?

Resource:
Can a fully vaccinated dialysis patient who gets tested every other day be roomed with another resident who is fully vaccinated?

**Resources:**


If an unvaccinated resident becomes COVID positive, how long must he be isolated from other vaccinated residents?

Resource:
CDC Discontinuation of Transmission-Based Precautions and Disposition of Patients with SARS-CoV-2 Infection in Healthcare Settings last updated June 2, 2021
Is electronic thermal scanning at facility entry in compliance with temperature screening requirements?

**Resources:**


What will be the major infection control components that surveyors will look for during survey?
Pre-Submitted Questions

Is there a use for finger stick antibody tests in nursing care centers?

Resource:
What type of protection should be used when cleaning a regular resident room (not on precautions)?

**Resources:**
OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens Standard
https://www.osha.gov/bloodborne-pathogens/standards
OSHA Personal Protective Equipment
https://www.osha.gov/personal-protective-equipment
The CDC recommends cleaning high touch surfaces frequently, does that mean we have to track compliance?
If we are in "outbreak mode," how often do we need to test residents and staff?

**Resource:**
Will there be new regulations released pertaining to infection control or disaster preparedness?

**Resources:**

OSHA June 10, 2021 News Release  

OSHA COVID Healthcare Emergency Temporary Standard  
Environment of Care and Life Safety
Pre-Submitted Questions

Are there any changes related to the oxygen storage signage in nursing care areas?

Are there any changes to the alcohol based prep recommendation regarding removing it from the operating room vs. 3 feet away from the patient?
Pre-Submitted Questions

What are requirements pertaining to fire alarm hardware and door releases?

Overhead paging for events such as Code Green -- what are the requirements for overhead paging?
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