COVID-19 Webinar for Laboratory Accreditation

Q&A With The Joint Commission

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Panel

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Can you tell me what standard would refer to checking the eye wash station for temperature and flow rate?
COVID-19 testing has no Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) specialty category? Will it have a category? What is going on with that?
Pre-Submitted Questions

We added COVID-19 and updated our IP and control plan but haven't been unable to meet with interdisciplinary group that manages plan for annual review. What is expectation during this pandemic to meet this standard?
Pre-Submitted Questions

Is anyone using UV cleaning on isolation gowns?
Pre-Submitted Questions

Can you discuss how the hazard (risk) assessment for aerosol generating procedures should be conducted for the lab?
Pre-Submitted Questions

During a survey, will infection control still be scrutinized for 2020 or will some sort of reprieve be given due to a facilities emergency operations plan in relation to COVID.
The Joint Commission Return to survey activity

- In addition to conducting accreditation surveys, 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 on-site survey process.
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 resume?

- 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, we will conduct those surveys when we are able.
- 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.
What instructions have been provided to surveyors?

- 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 you are required to wear a mask/face covering
- You are required to wear a mask on survey and follow the organization’s 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/review:

- Limiting the number of individuals in group sessions
- Using audio or video conferencing could be incorporated to safely expand the number of attendees for sessions
- Using masks will be a routine practice
- Maximizing 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
Survey/ Review process - continued

- We will NOT enter an at risk or confirmed COVID-19 rooms. We will not visit a unit with any confirmed COVID-19 patients.
- 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)
- Limit 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 discussion with you about the impact of the current pandemic and your organization’s response.
- We will discuss both Infection Control and Emergency Management.
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

- **Virtual surveys** – early surveys and initial surveys have occurred in some programs in Nursing Care Centers

- Virtual 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
  - Initial surveys conducted virtually will have a follow-up survey on-site.
  - Organization is contacted to verify ability and willingness to participate
COVID-19 resources

What Your Organization Needs to Know About the Coronavirus

Trusted Guidance. Trusted Resources.

View resources
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/