



**Indiana**  
Department  
of  
**Health**

## Long-term Care **NEWSLETTER**

### LTC Newsletter 2021-18

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**April 1, 2021**

#### **CMS Update:**

- QSO-21-15-ALL – Updated Guidance for Emergency Preparedness—Appendix Z

#### **LTC Updates:**

- Long-term Care Eye Protection—UPDATE
- Overcoming COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy—QSource Webinar

### **QSO-21-15-ALL – Updated Guidance for Emergency Preparedness—Appendix Z**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has released interpretive guidelines and updates to Appendix Z of the State Operation Manual (SOM) because of the revision of the *Medicare and Medicaid; Regulatory Provisions to Promote Program Efficiency, Transparency, and Burden Reduction (CoPs) (CMS 3346-F) Final Rule*.

The updates include expanded guidance related to emerging infectious diseases (EIDs) based on best practices, lessons learned and general recommendations for planning and preparedness for EID outbreaks.

Complete Information: [QSO-21-15-ALL Updated Guidance for Emergency Preparedness – Appendix Z of the State Operation Manual \(SOM\)](#)

## Long-term Care Eye Protection—UPDATE

Updated 03.31.21, [Long-term Care Eye Protection](#) current guidance for eye protection:

- **Changes from CDC updated guidance Feb 2021: If the county positivity rates are <5% with low community transmission and the facility is not in outbreak testing**, then eye protection **will not be required** when providing essential direct care within 6 feet to residents who are not in transmission-based precautions (TBP) for COVID-19 or quarantined for COVID positive exposures.
  - This would include residents in the general population (green zones) who are not suspected to have COVID-19.
  - **IF the county positivity rates increase to moderate or high substantial community transmission** then eye protection **should be used** for all residents within 6 feet when delivering essential direct care regardless of COVID 19 status.
  - **During moderate to high community transmission** eye protection should be worn by HCP who provide **essential direct care within 6 feet for any resident regardless of COVID status** in all levels of care in LTC settings. [CDC COVID-19 Infection Control Guidance](#)

Additional documents updated:

[COVID-19 LTC Facility Infection Control Guidance Standard Operating Procedure](#)—Updated with the eye protection guidance.

[LTC Toolkit](#)—Updates include Eye Protection, Standard Operating Procedure, and **GREEN STOP SIGN** with **\*moderate to substantial transmission for eye protection within 6 ft.**

## Overcoming COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy—Webinar

The COVID-19 vaccines have offered many hope after a year of lockdowns, social distancing and climbing infection and death totals.

Despite all this, many are hesitant to be vaccinated – both consumers and health care workers.

Join a panel discussion by clinical experts from the Indiana Department of Health who can give insight into addressing consumer and health care workers' hesitancy to be vaccinated.

[Overcoming COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy – Webinar – Registration](#)