



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

## **Long-term Care** **NEWSLETTER**

**LTC Newsletter 2022-13**  
**March 10, 2022**

---

### **LTC Update:**

- **Public Health Emergency and COVID-19 Waivers – Update**
- **Changes to COVID-19 Reporting for LTC Facilities – NEW**

### **Public Health Emergency and COVID-19 Waivers – Update**

On March 3, Gov. Eric Holcomb rescinded the state's public health emergency declaration. The regulatory blanket waivers for comprehensive care facilities and residential care facilities are still in effect for 45 days after the public health emergency ends. To allow facilities adequate time to come into compliance and ensure staff meet all appropriate training requirements, the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) will issue next week new waivers extending the expiration date to June 30.

<https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/covid-19-actions-regulatory-waivers/>

### **Changes to COVID-19 Reporting for LTC Facilities – NEW**

Starting on March 14, IDOH is changing COVID-19 case and death reporting for LTC facilities. Please refer to updated [reporting guidance document](#).

Long-term care facilities will no longer be required to report any information, including cases and deaths for staff and residents, through the Long-term Care COVID-19 reporting form REDCap.

- **NEW:** All LTC Facilities must report\* Outbreak Case Alerts to IDOH within 24 hours through the [Incident Reporting Gateway](#).
  - Use same NHSN definition for Outbreak Case Alert for both residents and staff
    - Resident Outbreak Case Alert:
      - >=1 confirmed cases among residents in a facility where no confirmed cases were identified during 4-week period prior to the most recent week
    - Staff Outbreak Case Alert:
      - >=1 confirmed cases among staff in a facility where no confirmed cases were identified during 4-week period prior to the most recent week

*\*The purpose of reporting is to identify facility associated infections. Facilities do not count resident cases that were positive upon admission OR new admission that turns positive while in transmission-based precautions or staff cases that did not enter the building during the infectious period (two days before their positive test or symptoms and after the onset of symptoms or positive test).*

- Outbreak Case Alerts should be reported through the Incident Reporting Gateway, which is the same process used for reporting other epidemiological outbreaks and communicable disease cases.

Facilities should include the following information in their report:

- Number of resident confirmed cases
- Number of staff confirmed cases
- Date of last confirmed case
- Current facility census

A five-day follow-up is not required. Facilities should indicate on the report that it is both the initial and the follow-up report.

Information and instructions for reporting through the Incident Reporting Gateway can be found at <https://www.in.gov/health/long-term-care-nursing-homes/incident-reporting-by-long-term-care-facilities/>.

Facilities ONLY need to submit an incident report through the Gateway report when the initial case meets the Outbreak Case Alert definition; it is not necessary to continue reporting new cases through the Gateway. This information will be gathered through additional outreach by IDOH.

If four weeks have passed without a new case, facilities would ONLY need to report if a new confirmed case meets the Outbreak Case Alert definition.

**The following reporting guidance is unchanged:**

- LTC Facilities should continue to report to NHSN as required by CMS.
- LTC Facilities should continue to report Point of Care test results through the COVID-19 Point of Care Test Reporting REDCap.  
***Facilities that are already reporting POC results through NHSN do NOT need to report this information through REDCap.*** [COVID-19 Point of Care Test Reporting REDCap](#)
- COVID-19 deaths should be reported through the IDOH 2019 Novel Coronavirus Death Reporting Line at 765-860-6053.