

Summary of the COVID-19 Focused Survey for Nursing Homes

This is a summary of the COVID-19 Focused Survey for Nursing Homes and the Survey Protocol. Surveyors should review the Survey Protocol for more detailed information as well as the Focused Survey. Facilities can review the Focused Survey to determine CMS’s expectations for an infection prevention and control program during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Offsite Survey Activity	Onsite Survey Activity	Facility Self-Assessment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For facilities with an active COVID-19 case, the survey team should contact their State Survey Agency (SSA), the state health department, and CMS Regional Location to coordinate activities for these facilities. • Ensure surveyors are medically cleared, and have personal protective equipment (PPE) that could be required onsite. • Conduct offsite planning to limit interruptions to care while onsite. Obtain information on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Facility-reported information; ○ CDC, state/local public health reports; ○ Available hospital information regarding patients transferred to the hospital; and/or ○ Complaint allegations. • Identify survey activities that will be conducted offsite, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Medical record review ○ Telephonic interviews, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Surveillance policies ▪ First onset of symptoms ▪ Communication to facility leaders and health officials ▪ Resident, representatives and families (if feasible, otherwise conduct onsite) ○ Policy/Procedure Review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Infect. Control/Prev. Plan ▪ Emerg. Prep. Plan, including contingency strategies (e.g., staffing) ○ Review communication(s) to residents, representatives and families (e.g., newsletter, etc) • Conduct survey exit discussion telephonically and draft the CMS-2567 offsite. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit the onsite team to one to two surveyors. • Identify and prioritize onsite assignments for activities, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resident Care Observations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hand hygiene practices ○ Proper use/discarding of PPE ○ Cleansing medical equipment ○ Effective Transmission-Based Precautions Environmental observations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Signage at entrances and resident rooms ○ Screening (staff at shift change, entrances, limiting nonessential staff) ○ Hand hygiene stations Interviews with relevant staff: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Policy/Procedure knowledge ○ Surveillance for sign/symptoms ○ Notifying local health officials ○ Information provided to residents, their representatives, and families concerning COVID-19 activity in the facility • Adhere to all CDC guidance for infection prevention and control related to COVID-19. • Provide the facility with the COVID-19 Entrance Conference worksheet and utilize this to request necessary information. • Identify and arrange for interviews that can be done telephonically. • Be alert of other immediate jeopardy (IJ) situations that may be present, and investigate appropriately. 	<p>Facilities should utilize the COVID-19 Focused Survey for Nursing Homes as a self- assessment tool. Priority areas for self- assessment include all of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Standard Precautions; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Hand hygiene b. Use of PPE c. Transmission-Based Precautions 2. Resident care (including resident placement); 3. Infection prevention and control standards, policies and procedures; 4. Infection surveillance; 5. Visitor entry (i.e., screening, restriction, and education); 6. Education, monitoring, and screening of staff; 7. Reporting to residents, representatives, and families on COVID-19 activity in the facility and mitigating actions taken; 8. Reporting to CDC’s National Healthcare Safety Network COVID-19 Module; and 9. Emergency preparedness – staffing in emergencies