



Oregon

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Date: June 9, 2020

TO: All Nursing Facilities

FROM: Jack Honey, Administrator
DHS Safety Oversight and Quality Unit

SUBJECT: COVID-19 National Health Safety Network Data Accuracy

Dear Providers:

On April 19, 2020, The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued [QSO 20-29-NH](#), informing nursing facilities of the new regulatory requirement to report all confirmed and suspected COVID-19 cases to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Health Safety Network (NHSN) beginning May 8, 2020. The regulatory requirement for reporting COVID data can be found at:

[42CFR§483.80\(g\) – COVID-19 Reporting \(Interim Final Rule\)](#)

On June 4, 2020, CMS issued [QSO 20-32-NH](#) informing nursing facilities and the public that CMS would post the facility reported COVID-19 information on a public website beginning on June 4, 2020. Data through the week ending May 31, 2020 has been posted to the following website:

<https://data.cms.gov/Special-Programs-Initiatives-COVID-19-Nursing-Home/COVID-19-Nursing-Home-Dataset/s2uc-8wpxp>

Safety, Oversight and Quality, Nursing Facility Licensing Unit (NFLU) has preliminarily reviewed the confirmed COVID-19 and COVID-19 related death data submitted by all Oregon nursing facilities for the weeks ending on May 24, 2020 and May 31, 2020. The NHSN data was then compared to the data reported to NFLU by facilities. NFLU discovered many inconsistencies in the total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases and in the total number of COVID-19 related deaths.

The Department is requesting that each facility review the data submitted to the NHSN and ensure any inaccuracies are identified and corrected prior to submitting data for the week ending June 14, 2020.

Additionally, facilities reporting confirmed COVID-19 or COVID-19 related deaths to the NHSN that have not been previously reported to NFLU will be contacted by SOQ staff to ensure all confirmed COVID-19 and COVID-19 related deaths are accurately reported to both NFLU and the NHSN.

As a reminder, nursing facilities must immediately report any resident or staff who is suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 to NFLicensing@dhsosha.state.or.us. Nursing facilities are also required to report to the NHSN. Failure to submit data to the NHSN can result in a federal enforcement action (see QSO 20-29-NH).

For information on how to gain access to the NHSN system, please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn>. CMS has also published a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document that explains how to correct data on the NHSN system. The FAQ document can be found at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/pdfs/covid19/lctcf/faq-cms-datarelease-508.pdf>

If you have questions about the NHSN system, please email: NHSN@cdc.gov and add "LTCF" in the subject header.

If you have any questions about this alert or the requirements or process for submitting information to NFLU, please contact your licensing team: NFLicensing@dhsosha.state.or.us

For general information about the DHS Office of Safety, Oversight and Quality, visit the DHS Web site at www.oregon.gov/DHS/.