



A Public Entity

Inland Empire Health Plan



**To:** Skilled Nursing Facilities  
**From:** IEHP – Provider Relations  
**Date:** April 3, 2020  
**Subject:** COVID-19: Infection Control

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*CMS issued critical recommendations to state and local governments, as well as nursing homes, to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in nursing homes. CMS and CDC are now recommending the following immediate actions to keep patients and residents safe:*

- Nursing homes should immediately ensure that they are complying with all CMS and CDC guidance related to infection control.
- **Long-term care facilities should immediately implement symptom screening for all staff, residents, and visitors – including temperature checks.**
- Long-term care facilities should ensure all staff are using appropriate PPE when they are interacting with patients and residents, to the extent PPE is available and per CDC guidance on conservation of PPE.
- **To avoid transmission within long-term care facilities, facilities should use separate staffing teams for COVID-19 positive residents to the best of their ability, and work with State and local leaders to designate separate facilities or units within a facility to separate COVID-19 negative residents from COVID-19 positive residents along with individuals unknown COVID-19 status.**

The CMS Memo is posted on the IEHP Portal at: [www.iehp.org](http://www.iehp.org) > For Providers > Plan Updates > Coronavirus (COVID-19) Advisory > CMS

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)

**CMS.gov**

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

[Updated CMS Rules and Waivers of Federal Requirements \(issued March 30, 2020\) to Address Patient Needs During the COVID-19 Pandemic \(PDF\)](#) - March 31, 2020 **NEW!**

[Guidance for Infection Control and Prevention of Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) in Nursing Homes \(PDF\)](#) - March 13, 2020

<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/4220-covid-19-long-term-care-facility-guidance.pdf>

As a reminder, all communications sent by IEHP can also be found on our Provider portal at: [www.iehp.org](http://www.iehp.org) > For Providers > Plan Updates > Correspondence.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the IEHP Provider Relations Team at (909) 890-2054.