



COVID-19 Waivers, Guidance, and Emergency Orders for Residential Care Facilities from ISDH
[Updated April 29, 2020]

Date	Waiver, Guidance, or Emergency Order	Summary	Link
March 15, 2020	<u>Guidance</u> on Visitation Restrictions, Group Dining, Screening, and Social Distancing	All long-term care (LTC) facilities should restrict visitation of all visitors and non-essential health care personnel. The only exception for visitors is for compassionate care situations, as in end of life, and even then, visitors with symptoms of a respiratory infection should not be permitted to enter the LTC facility. Cancellation of group dining, implementing screening of staff and residents for signs and symptoms, and resident social distancing are also recommended.	The entirety of the Guidance can be found here .
March 20, 2020	<u>Waiver</u> on TB Screenings for Staff (410 IAC 16.2-5-1.4(f)(1))	Residential care facilities (RCFs) are no longer required to screen employees for TB within ninety (90) days of their employment. Subsequent annual screenings are still required.	The entirety of the Waiver can be found here .
March 20, 2020	<u>Waiver</u> on Resident X-Rays (410 IAC 16.2-5-12(c))	RCFs are no longer required to obtain a diagnostic chest X-ray for residents six (6) months prior to admission.	The entirety of the Waiver can be found here .
March 20, 2020	<u>Waiver</u> on Tuberculin Skin Tests for Residents (410 IAC 16.2-5-12(e))	RCFs are no longer required to complete a tuberculin skin test for residents within ninety (90) days after a resident’s admission.	The entirety of the Waiver can be found here .
March 20, 2020	<u>Guidance</u> on Mask Use	ISDH requested that all LTC facilities have all health care workers wear a face mask during their shift. Please	The entirety of the Guidance can be found here .

		note, while clarifying guidance issued by ISDH on March 23 rd stated that only direct care providers in skilled nursing homes should wear masks, updated guidance on March 24 th (as outlined below) once again states that all LTC facilities should require those involved in direct patient care to wear a mask during their entire shift.	
March 21, 2020	<u>Waiver on Notice of Transfer or Discharge</u> (410 IAC 16.2-5-1.2(r)(7))	RCFs are no longer required to provide notice of transfer or discharge to residents at least thirty (30) days prior; however, RCFs must provide notice of transfer or discharge to residents as soon as practicable.	The entirety of the Waiver can be found here .
March 21, 2020	<u>Waiver on Use of Pill Planners</u> (410 IAC 16.2-5-4(e))	RCFs may now prepare medication doses for residents on a weekly basis using a pill planner or similar device.	The entirety of the Waiver can be found here .
March 22, 2020	<u>Guidance on Preparedness Checklist</u>	ISDH encourages all LTC facilities to assess and improve their preparedness for responding to COVID-19 by utilizing the CDC's checklist, although LTC facilities may need to adapt the checklist to meet their own needs and circumstances.	The entirety of the Guidance can be found here , and the CDC checklist can be found here .
March 22, 2020	<u>Guidance on Voluntary Leaves of Absences (VLOAs)</u>	RCFs should strongly discourage VLOAs of any length. If a resident insists on a VLOA, and there is a reasonable basis for concluding the resident will pose a later COVID-19 risk, the RCF may discharge the resident. If the RCF permits the resident to return following the VLOA, the RCF must implement appropriate isolation and containment protocols.	The entirety of the Guidance can be found here .
March 23, 2020	<u>Emergency Order on Use of Personal Care Attendants (PCAs)</u>	RCFS may train and utilize temporary PCAs to perform resident care procedures that do not require the skill or training required for a CNA, if the PCA is eighteen (18) years of age, completes an eight (8) hour training, and satisfies the requirements for "other unlicensed employees" set forth in IC 16-28-13. Please see the Amended Emergency Orders issued on PCAs below.	The entirety of the Emergency Order and training requirements can be found here . Following any PCA training, the spreadsheet linked here should be completed and submitted to aides@isdh.in.gov .

March 23, 2020	<u>Waiver on Dining Assistant Requirements (410 IAC 16.2-5-13))</u>	RCFs may permit an individual who is not otherwise permitted to perform dining assistant functions if the RCF documents that the individual has received certain training. Such individuals may not provide dining assistance to residents with known choking or swallowing difficulties and may not administer tube or IV feedings.	The entirety of the Waiver and training requirements can be found here .
March 23, 2020	<u>Waiver on Transportation to Community-Based Activities (410 IAC 16.2-5-7.1(b))</u>	RCFs are no longer required to provide and/or coordinate scheduled transportation to community-based activities for residents.	The entirety of the Waiver can be found here .
March 24, 2020	<u>Guidance on Responding to COVID-19</u>	ISDH underscored the need for all LTC facilities to utilize the CDC checklist, which can be found once again here . ISDH also recommends that all LTC facilities use this sheet to track their infection control activities, as well as their residents and staff with respiratory illness. All LTC facilities should have a plan to implement how they will cohort confirmed or presumed COVID-19 residents. All LTC facilities should limit resident contact to essential direct care providers , and those direct care providers should wear a mask their entire shift . LTC facilities should update their status of Personal Protective Equipment via EMResources daily. Finally, all LTC facilities should have updated lists of all residents' code status.	The entirety of the Guidance can be found here .
March 28, 2020	<u>Guidance on Limited Criminal History Checks</u>	ISDH noted that due to limitations on fingerprinting for background checks, which are required when a limited criminal history check first returns as inconclusive, it is clarifying that IC 16-28-13-4(a) only requires the health care facility to "apply" for the limited criminal history check, but that the report does not actually have to be obtained. ISDH requires proof of documentation of the application. This guidance does not relax the requirement that a health facility	The entirety of the Guidance can be found here .

		cannot employ a person with a disqualifying crime under IC 16-28-13-3. The term health facility includes RCFs.	
April 1, 2020	<u>Guidance on Hospital Discharges</u>	ISDH provided COVID-related guidance for hospital discharges to LTC facilities, and conversely, for LTC facilities sending of residents to the emergency department. However, this guidance is directed at nursing facilities.	The entirety of the Guidance can be found here .
April 2, 2020	<u>Amended Emergency Order on PCAs</u>	RCFs may train and subsequently utilize temporary PCAs to perform resident care procedures that do not require the skill or training required of a CNA if the PCA is at least sixteen (16) years of age or older (an Emergency Order from March 23 rd only permitted PCAs eighteen (18) years of age or older). All PCAs must still complete the required eight (8) hour training and satisfy the requirements for “other unlicensed employees” as set forth in IC 16-28-13.	The entirety of the Amended Emergency Order can be found here . Following any PCA training, the spreadsheet linked here should be completed and submitted to aides@isdh.in.gov .
April 2, 2020	<u>Waiver on Resident Rights (410 IAC 16.2-5-1.2(o) and (bb-ff))</u>	RCFs are no longer required to adhere to the following resident rights: 1) The right to form a resident or family council; 2) to have immediate access to certain individuals (i.e., individuals representing state agencies, the resident’s physician, relatives, the LTC ombudsman, etc.); 3) to choose with whom they associate and have at least twelve (12) visiting hours a day; 4) to have access to an entity or individual that provides health, social, legal, and/or other services; 5) to have the state ombudsman examine the resident’s clinical records; and 6) to participate in social, religious, and community activities.	The entirety of the Waiver can be found here .
April 2, 2020	<u>Waiver on Employee Health Screens (410 IAC 16.2-5-1.4(f))</u>	RCFs are no longer required to conduct a health screen for each employee prior to resident contact; RCFs are instead required to conduct a health screen for employees within ninety (90) days after the start their employment.	The entirety of the Waiver can be found here .

<p>April 2, 2020</p>	<p><u>Waiver on Licenses for Structural and/or Bed Changes (410 IAC 16.2-5-1.1(d-e))</u></p>	<p>RCFs that have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) declared a COVID-19 facility emergency (there does not need to be a known COVID-19 case to do so); and (2) notified ISDH of the declaration may: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) remodel or make other structural changes if the RCF notifies ISDH of the change within three (3) days, provides ISDH with drawings and supporting narrative to show and describe what changes have been or will be made, and requests temporary approval from ISDH; and/or (b) relocate, convert, and reclassify beds and renumber rooms if the RCF notifies ISDH of the change within three (3) days, provides ISDH with drawings and supporting narrative to show and describe what changes have been or will be made, and requests temporary approval from ISDH. 	<p>The entirety of the Waiver can be found here.</p> <p>Please note, the Waiver also details the steps that need to be taken following the public health emergency if these changes are going to be rolled-back or made permanent.</p>
<p>April 2, 2020</p>	<p><u>Waiver on Resident Transfers and Discharges (Various Subdivisions of 410 IAC 16.2-5-1.2(r))</u></p>	<p>The Waiver amends the transfer and discharge process as it relates to the required appeals notice and timing of a requested appeals hearing, including modifying the twenty-three (23) day timeframe to “as soon as the ISDH deems practical after expiration or withdrawal of the Governor’s declaration of the public health emergency.”</p>	<p>The entirety of the Waiver can be found here.</p>
<p>April 8, 2020</p>	<p><u>Emergency Order on Reporting COVID-19 Information</u></p>	<p>Effective April 10, 2020, all LTC facilities, including RCFs, are required to report the following within twenty-four (24) hours:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Any resident who tests positive for COVID-19; 2) Any employee who tests positive for COVID-19; 3) Any confirmed positive COVID-19 related death OR 	<p>The entirety of the Emergency Order can be found here, and the online survey tool to report the required information can be found here.</p> <p>Questions regarding the survey tool</p>

		<p>suspected COVID-19 related death of a resident; and</p> <p>4) Any confirmed positive COVID-19 related death OR suspected COVID-19 related death of an employee.</p> <p>Confirmed or suspected deaths should be reported regardless of where the death occurred and within twenty-four (24) hours of a facility’s knowledge of the death.</p>	<p>should be directed to:</p> <p>PROVIDERS@isdh.in.gov. However, this email address should not be used to make a report in place of the online survey tool.</p>
April 8, 2020	<u>Amended Emergency Order</u> on PCAs	RCFs may train and subsequently utilize PCAs to perform resident care procedures that do not require the skill or training required of a CNA if the PCA is sixteen (16) or seventeen (17) years of age <u>continuing indefinitely</u> . All PCAs must complete the required eight (8) hour training and satisfy the requirements for “other unlicensed employees” as set forth in IC 16-28-13.	The entirety of the Amended Emergency Order can be found here . Following any PCA training, the spreadsheet linked here should be completed and submitted to aides@isdh.in.gov .
April 10, 2020	<u>Guidance on Requesting Health Care Personnel</u>	RCFs may request immediate health care workforce needs in response to COVID-19 through ISDH. Information about employment opportunities within a RCF will then be distributed to individuals who indicated willingness to serve and meet the specified criteria/need.	The Indiana Health Care Workforce Needs Request Form can be found here .
April 10, 2020	<u>Guidance on Weather Watches and Warning</u>	RCFs are encouraged to utilize the ISDH’s newly issued guidance regarding weather watches and warnings during the COVID-19 outbreak. RCFs should instruct residents to put on facemasks and place a clean sheet/blanket around the residents and their wheelchairs before bringing them into the hallway away from windows.	The entirety of the Guidance can be found here .

<p>April 13, 2020</p>	<p><u>Guidance on PPE Requests</u></p>	<p>RCFs in need of PPE should first contact their local health department (LHD) for any available resources. If the LHD does not have PPE or is otherwise unreachable, the RCF should complete an ICS 213 RR form and email the form to isdhdeplistics@isdh.in.gov. ISDH can only fill a request once a RCF's current stock reaches seventy-two (72) hours or fewer.</p>	<p>The entirety of the Guidance can be found here.</p>
<p>April 13, 2020</p>	<p><u>Guidance on Specimen Collection</u></p>	<p>The ISDH requires all COVID-19 test requisitions to be submitted through its Laboratory Information Management System as outlined in its COVID-19 Specimen Collection and Submission Guidelines.</p>	<p>The entirety of the Guidance can be found here.</p>
<p>April 14, 2020</p>	<p><u>ISDH Commissioner Order on the Relocation of LTC Facility Residents</u></p>	<p>LTC facilities are authorized to transfer, discharge, transport, or otherwise relocate residents in accordance with the plans and guidance of ISDH, including transfers within a facility, transfers between facilities (including to and from hospitals), and transfers across city or county boundaries. Any local health officer order or LHD order concerning the transfer, discharge, transport, or other relocation of LTC facility residents that are contrary or inconsistent are void.</p>	<p>The entirety of the ISDH Commissioner Order can be found here.</p>
<p>April 17, 2020</p>	<p><u>Guidance on Family Visitation for End-of-Life Care</u></p>	<p>ISDH issued further guidance regarding family visitation for end-of-life care. Family visitation for end-of-life care should be made on a case-by-case basis and should weigh the risk of viral transmission with the need for compassionate end-of-life care.</p>	<p>The entirety of the Guidance can be found here.</p>
<p>April 20, 2020</p>	<p><u>Emergency Order on Temporary CNAs</u></p>	<p>RCFs may utilize the AHCA Temporary Nurse Aide Program to train temporary CNAs to assist with patient care. All temporary CNAs must complete the eight (8) hour online training through AHCA and complete the competency checklist. RCFs must maintain documentation showing the temporary CNA completed the AHCA</p>	<p>The entirety of the Emergency Order can be found here. Following any temporary CNA training, the Temporary Nurse Aide – Registry Spreadsheet should</p>

		Program, including passing the final assessment and competency checklist.	be completed and submitted to aides@isdh.in.gov .
April 20, 2020	<u>Emergency Order on Former CNAs</u>	RCFs may temporarily employ former CNAs whose certifications have expired or otherwise lapsed if the expiration or lapse occurred while the CNA was in good standing; the expiration or lapse occurred on or after January 1, 2019; the CNA worked at least forty (40) hours as a CNA during the one (1) year period immediately preceding the expiration or lapse; and the RCF ensures the former CNA provides competent CNA service.	The entirety of the Emergency Order can be found here . If a former CNA does not precisely meet these requirements, a RCF may request approval on a case-by-case basis from Jan Kulik at jkulik@isdh.IN.gov .
April 20, 2020	<u>Guidance on Infection Control</u>	LTC facilities are encouraged to cohort residents into three (3) categories—Red, Yellow, and Green—based on known COVID-positive residents, presumed COVID-positive residents, and COVID-negative residents.	The entirety of the Guidance can be found here .
April 27, 2020	<u>Guidance on Memory Care Unit Strategies</u>	ISDH issued memory care unit strategies, which include cohorting residents into three (3) categories based on their test results—Red, Yellow, and Green. Those LTC facilities that cannot create separate memory care units for cohorting should move the COVID-19 negative residents or the COVID-19 positive residents out of the memory care unit, whichever is least disruptive to the least number of residents.	The entirety of the Guidance can be found here .

<p>April 29, 2020</p>	<p><u>Guidance on Communication with Residents and Designated Representatives on COVID-19 Status</u></p> <p>**Please note, although these are termed guidelines, ISDH expects all LTC facilities, including RCFs, to follow the requirements outlined.</p>	<p>Effective immediately, unless otherwise noted, ISDH is requiring LTC facilities, including RCFs, to provide to residents and their designated representatives the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briefings regarding how the facility is handling issues with care and any staff shortages; • General information about COVID-19; • The total number of residents who have tested positive for COVID-19 and the number of new positive cases of COVID-19 in the last 14 days; • The number of residents who have died due to the COVID-19; and • Facility mitigation actions implemented to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission. <p>ISDH also outlined more specific communication requirements, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilities should assign a staff person in the unit or facility to be the contact person. • Effective May 4, 2020, facilities should send daily (at a minimum, Monday through Friday) group emails, automated voicemails, or other automated electronic communications to residents' designated representatives informing them of the total number of COVID-19 cases, new cases in the last 24 hours, deaths in the last 24 hours, and what actions are being taken to prevent further spread of COVID-19. • Facilities should complete the Facility Emergency Transfer Form weekly and email it to the local ombudsman every Friday. 	<p>The entirety of the Guidance can be found here.</p>
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<p>April 29, 2020</p>	<p><u>Guidance</u> on COVID-19 Information for LTC Facilities</p>	<p>ISDH issued a comprehensive document detailing COVID-19 information for LTC facilities, including preventing the introduction and spread of COVID-19 in LTC facilities, isolation removal recommendations, and strategies on conserving PPE.</p>	<p>The entirety of the Guidance can be found here.</p>