*IHCP COVID-19 Response:* Reimbursement temporarily increased for *COVID-19 Ready* nursing facilities

In response to the current coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) Delta variant surge and the need to ease the stress on hospitals by ensuring placement options for stable COVID-19 patients who are ready for transfer, the Indiana Health Coverage Programs (IHCP) is implementing a temporary 4% increase in Medicaid reimbursement rates for Indiana nursing facilities that attest to being *COVID-19 Ready* based on the requirements outlined in this bulletin.

Providers that attest to being *COVID-19 Ready* will also be eligible for a temporary $230 per resident daily add-on for each COVID-19 positive resident. The $230 per resident daily add-on is limited to up to 21 days per resident.

A future publication will announce when providers will start seeing the additional reimbursement.

COVID-19 Ready 4% increase

To qualify for the temporary 4% rate increase, nursing facilities will need to follow, and attest to the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) *COVID-19 Ready* requirements:

n Follow IDOH COVID-19 Long-Term Care (LTC) Standard Operating Procedures and IDOH COVID-19 Infection Prevention (IP) Toolkit, located on the [*Professional Resources*](https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/2399.htm) page at coronavirus.in.gov.

n Follow IDOH LTC hospital transfer guidance or have developed a mutually agreed upon plan with local hospitals for admission and readmission of COVID-19 patients.

n Follow IDOH, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) communication guidelines.

n Accept COVID-19 new admissions, readmissions and transfers.

n Share complete COVID-19 status information with transportation providers serving residents.

n Follow IDOH, CMS and CDC reporting requirements for new COVID-19 cases and deaths involving residents and staff.

n Provide daily updates of COVID-19 bed capacity and changes in admission status (for example, admissions hold) in the [EMResource](https://emresource.juvare.com/login) system at emresource.juvare.com.

This temporary 4% rate increase will be calculated based on each facility’s standard rates.

COVID-19 $230 per resident add-on

To qualify for the temporary $230 per patient daily add-on, the facility must complete both of the following requirements:

n Submit an attestation and comply with IDOH requirements for a *COVID-19 Ready* facility (as described in the previous section).

n Bill claims for COVID-19 positive residents with the primary diagnosis code of U07.1 – *COVID-19 positive*.

Qualified providers will be paid the temporary $230 per resident add-on for the full 21 days from the initial positive diagnosis if the following statements are true:

n The resident is in a *COVID-19 Ready* facility.

n The resident is COVID-19 positive between Sept. 20, 2021, and Oct. 16, 2021.

n Claims had U07.1 as the primary diagnosis.

n The resident was not discharged prior to the 21 days for any reason, including death, transfer to another facility or being sent home.

Effective dates

The temporary 4% increase is available for qualifying providers for dates of service beginning Sept. 20, 2021, through Oct. 16, 2021.

The temporary $230 per patient per day add-on is available to qualifying providers for dates of service beginning Sept. 20, 2021, and extending for up to 21 days, for residents that are COVID-19 positive between Sept. 20, 2021, and Oct. 16, 2021.

***Providers that attest to being COVID-19 Ready prior to October 1 will receive the add-on effective September 20. Providers who attest October 1st and beyond, will receive the add-on effective with the attestation date.***

Attestation process

Nursing facility providers that are *COVID-19 Ready* must:

n Complete and sign the *Attestation Statement – COVID-19 Ready Providers* located on the Myers and Stauffer website and email it to Derris.Harrison@fssa.in.gov.

n Update their *COVID-19 Ready* status in [EMResource](https://emresource.juvare.com/login). Providers must be enrolled in the EMResource system and attest to being *COVID-19 Ready* by entering “yes” in the LTC COVID Ready Facility Status column.