

## GOV. CARNEY FORMERLY EXTENDS PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

### DHCFA WEBINARS – Registration Forms Attached:

- Survey Readiness and Conducting a Mock Survey Webinar Version: Wednesday, July 13, 2022, 2-4 pm
- Substance Use Series: Wednesday, June 29, 2-3 pm



## **FRIDAY ROUNDUP JUNE 24, 2022**

### **ARPA COMPLIANCE DOCUMENT:** For those facilities that received ARPA money

There is a compliance policy posted on Gov. Carney's website ([American Rescue Plan: Investing in Delaware - Governor John Carney - State of Delaware](#)). It is also attached. This reverts back to the US Treasury guidance for the ARPA SLFRF Reporting & Compliance and 2 CFR. This document may be updated so use the web link to check for any changes.

### **SURVEY EVALUATION**

For those of you who have feedback you would like to provide regarding your survey, there is a confidential form you can complete and sent to DHCQ. The form is attached.

### **MEDICARE AND MEDICAID**

- [Revision History for LTC Survey Process Documents and Files Updated 06/07/2022 \(PDF\)](#)
- [Survey Resources with Staff Vaccine Documents 06/07/2022 \(ZIP\)](#)

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2016/10/04/2016-23503/medicare-and-medicaid-programs-reform-of-requirements-for-long-term-care-facilities> Effective Date 11/28/2016

### **FOR NON-PROFITS**

**Fiscal Year 2023 Grant-in-Aid allocations:** Please be advised that the Joint Finance Committee will convene on Tuesday, June 28, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. to discuss Fiscal Year 2023 Grant-in-Aid allocations. The meeting will be held in the Joint Finance Committee Hearing Room, Ground Floor, Legislative Hall. This meeting will be livestreamed via a link on the General Assembly's website at <https://legis.delaware.gov>

## **CDC VACCINE UPDATE**

[Clinical Guidance for COVID-19 Vaccination | CDC](#)

CDC has a calculator on their website which can help determine “up to date” status and whether or not a booster is needed. [COVID-19 Vaccine Boosters | CDC](#)

## **CDC UPDATES**

[COVID-19 Vaccination Modules Key Terms](#)

**Interim Clinical Considerations for COVID-19 Treatment in Outpatients** — [This page](#) provides a treatment overview for healthcare providers. What you need to know:

- There is strong scientific evidence that [antiviral treatment](#) of outpatients at risk for severe COVID-19 reduces their risk of hospitalization and death.
- The antiviral drugs Paxlovid (ritonavir-boosted nirmatrelvir) and Veklury (remdesivir) are the preferred treatments for eligible adult and pediatric patients with positive results of direct SARS-CoV-2 viral testing and who are at high risk for progression to severe COVID-19.
- Clinicians should consider COVID-19 treatment in non-hospitalized patients who meet all of the following:
  - Test positive for SARS-CoV-2 (with PCR or antigen test, including at-home tests).
  - Have symptoms consistent with [mild-to-moderate COVID-19](#). People with mild COVID-19 experience symptoms such as fever, sore throat, cough, or headache that do not affect the lungs and breathing. People with moderate illness have symptoms that affect the lungs like shortness of breath or difficulty breathing.
  - Are within 5 days of symptom onset for Paxlovid or 7 days of symptom onset for Veklury.

To learn more, [Interim Clinical Considerations for COVID-19 Treatment in Outpatients | CDC](#)

***In Case You Missed It* COCA Call: What Clinicians Need to Know about Monkeypox in the United States and Other Countries** - This COCA Call presented what clinicians need to know about monkeypox including guidance about the typical clinical presentation, treatment options, pre- and post-exposure prophylaxis, and reporting to public health authorities. A recording of the presentation and a copy of the slides can be found here: [Webinar May 24, 2022 - What Clinicians Need to Know about Monkeypox in the United States and Other Countries \(cdc.gov\)](#)

## **CMS UPDATE**

**CMS updated the [COVID-19 Emergency Declaration Blanket Waivers for Health Care Providers](#) listing on Thursday, June 16, 2022.**

Attached is a 45-page document with the updates related to QSO-22-15-NH, NLTC and LSC - specifically the expirations effective June 6, 2022. You can find those at:

- the bottom of page 16/top of page 17 (Physical Environment)
- the bottom of page 17 (Training and Certification of Nurse Aides)
- the top of page 21 (In-service Training Requirements)
- the bottom of page 21 (Paid Feeding Assistants)
- the top of page 26 (Defer Equipment Maintenance & Fire Safety Inspections)
- on page 29 and top of page 30 (Specific Physical Environment)
- the bottom of page 30 and top of page 31 (Fire Drills & Temporary Construction)

**QSO-22-18-ALL:** CMS is rescinding and hereby removing the January 25, 2022 Memo regarding **Vaccination Expectations for Surveyors Performing Federal Oversight** (QSO-22-10-ALL) from HHS's guidance repository. <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-22-18-all.pdf>

## **IMPORTANT UPDATE: WALGREENS PHARMACY ROLL BACK OF OPERATIONAL HOURS**

DMAP has received information that Walgreens will be temporarily reducing the pharmacy hours at additional locations in Delaware, which may impact member and provider pharmacy services.

Beginning **July 7, 2022**, the following changes will take effect:

- The State Street (Dover) store will reduce their pharmacy hours to 9:30 AM to 6:00 PM Monday, Wednesday, and Friday with no pharmacy hours on Tuesday, Thursday, or weekends.
- The Summit Bridge (Middletown) store will reduce their pharmacy hours to 9:30 AM to 6:00 PM Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday with no pharmacy hours on Wednesday or weekends.
- The Laurel, Ridge Ave (Middletown), Fairfax, and Milton stores will reduce their pharmacy hours to 9:30 AM to 6:00 PM Monday through Friday with no weekend hours.
- The DuPont Highway (Middletown), Camden, and Smyrna stores will reduce their pharmacy hours to 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM on Saturday, and 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM on Sunday.
- The Greenville pharmacy will be open 9:30 AM to 6:00 PM Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM on Saturday, and closed on Sunday.

For a list of updated hours and locations, please visit [www.walgreens.com](http://www.walgreens.com) or you can call **1-800-WALGREENS** or 1-800-925-4733.

## **AMDA - The Society for PALTC Medicine**

Drive to Deprescribe: The [June 16 D2D Meeting](#) (Optimizing Use of Antipsychotics Part 2) playback and Powerpoint slides are available: [https://paltc.org/sites/default/files/D2D-Webinar\\_06162022\\_FINAL.pptx](https://paltc.org/sites/default/files/D2D-Webinar_06162022_FINAL.pptx)

---

## **HCS NURSING HOME STUDY - PARTICIPATION OPEN**

Participation is open for the HCS Nursing Home Salary & Benefits study. Members anxiously await the survey each year, so please help us spread the word! Below is a brief overview on the study:

- Nursing Home submission deadline: still accepting information
- Participant price is \$185 pre-paid; billed rate is \$205

### *HCS Nursing Home Study Underway*

Hospital & Healthcare Compensation Service (HCS) is conducting its annual [Nursing Home Salary & Benefits Study](#) and requests your participation. Nursing Home providers are asked to complete the study's questionnaire by May 9<sup>th</sup>. The study is published by HCS in cooperation with **AHCA**. The results will be published in July.

There is no cost to participate. Participants may purchase the results at the reduced price of \$185, versus the \$375 nonparticipant rate. Questionnaires may be downloaded at: [www.hhcsinc.com](http://www.hhcsinc.com).

Last year's [Nursing Home Report](#) contained data from 1,613 nursing homes. The Report covers management salaries, bonuses, non-management wages, and fringe benefits. Data will be reported by region, state, CBSA, revenue size, and bed size. Both for-profit and not-for-profit data will be separately covered. Information on eighteen fringe benefits, shift differentials, turnover rates, and other facility metrics will also be included.

Contact Rich Cioffe at [RJCioffe@hhcsinc.com](mailto:RJCioffe@hhcsinc.com), (201) 405-0075, ext. 10 with any questions, or if a deadline extension is needed.

## **MEMBER NEWS**

[Milford Wellness Village Offers Change of PACE for Older Citizens](#): Polaris Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center is part of the Milford Wellness Village

## **WORKFORCE**

### **Link to CNA Training Schools on DHCFA Website**

<https://www.dhcfa.org/member-resources/workforce/cna-training/>

Login: providermember pass: LTCquality19

### **Staffing Agency Info Wanted**

Please let [cheiks@dhcfa.org](mailto:cheiks@dhcfa.org) know if your staffing agency personnel are working more than the prescribed number of hours in a row.

## **SHARE WITH STAFF:**

**Covid-19 Vaccines For Children 6 Months Through 5 Years Receive Federal Authorization; Vaccination To Begin In De Week Of June 20, 2022**

[https://dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/pressreleases/2022/childrenvac\\_061822.html](https://dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/pressreleases/2022/childrenvac_061822.html)

### **COVID-19 Vaccinations Covered Without Cost-sharing for Eligible Children Aged Six Months to Five Years**

Information regarding the CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Program Provider Requirements and how the COVID-19 vaccines are provided through that program at no cost to recipients is available

at <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/vaccination-provider-support.html> and through the [COVID-19 Vaccine Policies & Guidance page](#).

## **GUIDE TO SERVICES TO OLDER DELAWAREANS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

DSAAPD has print copies on hand (45 to a case) that facilities may request to distribute to residents. Social workers especially like having this resource guide on hand. Requests to GERALYN AELLIS at [geralyn.aellis@delaware.gov](mailto:geralyn.aellis@delaware.gov). She will arrange for pick or delivery.

# REVENUE CYCLE MANAGEMENT ACADEMY



Securing Payment for Quality Patient Care

## Revenue Cycle Management Academy Helps SNFs Stay Paid

*Flyer is attached*

In the coming months, federal aid will dwindle as the government and states move toward a post-pandemic normal order of business. As SNFs continue to struggle with sluggish occupancy and workforce challenges, ensuring that every dollar earned for care delivery is retained will be imperative.

AHCA's online training program titled [Revenue Cycle Management \(RCM\) Academy](#) takes a holistic interdisciplinary approach toward SNF revenue management. RCM Academy helps develop concrete strategies to secure earned dollars and to "stay paid" when thinking about Managed Care payment recoveries. RCM Academy helps SNFs:

- **Prepare for the eventual phase down of COVID-related government assistance**
- **Stabilize and better manage a predictable revenue flow relative to overhead**
- **Stay paid when considering Medicare Advantage Plan payment recovery trends.**

RCM can be implemented throughout a building or more broadly as an organization-wide approach to enhance revenue by minimizing losses from payments that too often are unnecessarily lost or overlooked. RCM team members will be able to apply their practical RCM knowledge and implement daily processes.

Effective RCM requires a team approach beyond just facility billing office or corporate office staff. AHCA recommends that all SNF administrators, assistant administrators, DONs, ADONs, MDS coordinators, nurse leaders and admissions staff enroll in RCM Academy too. Flexible 2022 "AHCA Member-Only" pricing options for RCM Academy include:

- **1 Individual Registration** with 6.75 NAB CEs **\$350**
- **2+ Individuals** (Same facility or corporate office) with 6.75 NAB CEs **\$300 per person** Individuals should contact [educate@ahca.org](mailto:educate@ahca.org) to request this group discount.
- **Single AHCA Member Only Facility Registration** with Unlimited 2022 Facility Staff Access (NO NAB CEs OFFERED) **\$1,000**

Additional bonus RCM webinars will be offered throughout 2022 for all RCM Academy registrants.

Individuals will need to login to *ahcancaLED* with their AHCA/NCAL usernames and passwords to register for [Revenue Cycle Management Academy](#). For assistance obtaining usernames and passwords, members should e-mail [educate@ahca.org](mailto:educate@ahca.org) with their name and facility contact information.

**[AHCA: New FREE Webinar Covering Insights and Program Eligibility for the Employ Retention Tax Credit.](#)**

AHCA/NCAL has pre-recorded a webinar on the basics of ERTC, assessing possible eligibility and how to seek help including AHCA/NCAL basic technical support using our [COVID19@ahca.org](mailto:COVID19@ahca.org). This is information and the technical support is for members, **only**.

**Employee Retention Tax Credit (ERTC) – An Overview and Insights on Updated Program Eligibility**

The ERTC is intended to offer employers with a tax credit which can be used for wages when employees are furloughed during a government ordered shut-down. The initial version of the program was restrictive and had only limited eligibility. Changes made to the program by the Consolidated Appropriations Act (CAA) expanded eligibility making more employers likely eligible and provided more clarity around interaction with Provider Relief Funds and Payroll Protection Program (PPP) loans. This pre-recorded webinar provides an overview of the ERTC, important changes made by the CAA, and offers concrete action steps to explore your eligibility and leverage the ERTC. Also, AHCA is offering high-level ERTC technical support via partner CPA firms. The webinar explains how to access this resource.

Speakers: Plante Moran and FORV/S (formerly BKD)

You will need your AHCA/NCAL website username and password to access the pre-recorded webinar located [here](#).



The early bird deadline is one month away! For details and registration: [www.AHCAconvention.org](http://www.AHCAconvention.org)

**SALE on LGBTQI and HIV+ Older Adults Training**

June is Pride Month. AHCA/NCAL has partnered with SAGE to offer a training for AHCA/NCAL members titled [Creating Inclusive Communities for LGBTQI and HIV+ Older Adults](#). In recognition of Pride Month, AHCA/NCAL members can save 10% on this training through June 30 by using promo code **PRIDE22** when registering. SAGE is a national organization providing advocacy and services for LGBTQI elders.

To help state affiliates promote this sale, attached is a sale flyer and model article for state affiliates to use in their promotions. A quick reminder that this training is for AHCA/NCAL members only and is not available to non-members.

**TESTING REQUIREMENTS – TESTING GUIDANCE UPDATE (attached)**

DPH COVID-19 Testing Guidance based on CMS’s revised guidance. [DPH-LTC-COVID-19-Testing-Guidance-3.8.22.pdf](#) (delaware.gov)

**PLEASE NOTE:** As per page 8 of the DPH guidance document linked above, residents CAN be tested via POC.

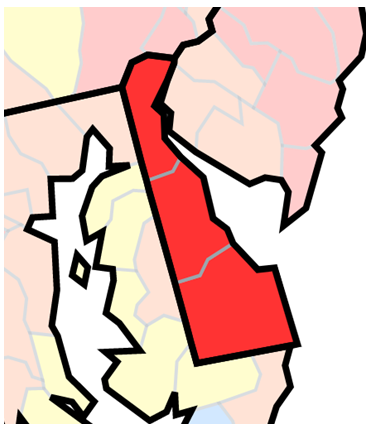
“Up to Date” means a person has received all recommended COVID-19 vaccines, including any booster dose(s) when eligible. Current recommendations can be found at: [Stay Up to Date with Your Vaccines | CDC](#)

Routine testing for staff who are up to date on all recommended COVID-19 vaccination doses is no longer required.

Using information posted on <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>, the Delaware counties’ **level of community transmission** as of **June 21, 2022** are listed in the table below:

County	Current Level of Community Transmission based on CDC COVID-19 Integrated County View	Minimum Frequency of Routine Testing for <b>Staff Who Are Not Up To Date With All Recommended COVID-19 Vaccine Doses</b>
Kent County, DE	<b>High</b>	Twice a week
New Castle County, DE	<b>High</b>	Twice a week
Sussex County, DE	<b>High</b>	Twice a week

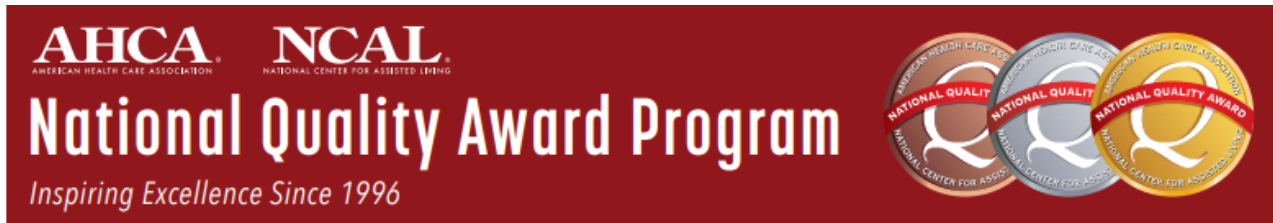
The metrics used for routine testing of staff who are not “up to date” on COVID-19 vaccination are based on **level of community transmission in each county**. This is not to be confused with the CDC’s [community level](#) data which does not apply for LTC routine testing!



The **UPDATED** testing guidance for Delaware is posted here: <https://coronavirus.delaware.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/177/2022/06/DPH-LTC-COVID-19-Testing-Guidance-6.3.22.pdf>

Facilities can chose to use Curative. If they do chose to use Curative, the insurance information must be completed for those that are insured or for those that are uninsured, that section will have to be completed. If you do use Curative, a reference you may find beneficial is: [What Happens When COVID-19 Emergency Declarations End? Implications for Coverage, Costs, and Access | KFF](#)

Please note that facilities can use POC/antigen testing to fulfill the testing requirements.



2023 National Quality Award applications are available for members to download and begin to review.

The AHCA/NCAL National Quality Award Program has opened its 2023 year three months earlier than previous years to give providers more time to work on their applications.

[Everything you need to know including applications are here.](#)

## **SUGGESTIONS FOR SURVEY AWARENESS in BOTH SNF and ALF ENVIRONMENTS**

COVID vaccination:

- Verification of education provided to staff who refused vaccine.
- For those staff who have medical or religious exemptions, a review of documentation to ensure it is in place and corresponds to reported numbers.
- Surveyors' significant review of vaccine data.
- Verification of screening of staff and visitors.
- Checking to see if someone was working during the time, they were positive.
- Checking to see if someone was working during the time, they were unvaccinated.
- Testing frequency as required by the state.
- Copies of vaccination cards
- Verification of offering vaccine to residents, and if needed declination forms

Other Vaccination requirements:

- Influenza and Pneumococcal records

Other:

- **Train your staff not to respond to baiting by a surveyor's tactics to intimidate them to act inappropriately (i.e., exiting a COVID unit against protocol because the surveyor as an authority figure requests it)**
- **Review status of dumpster – recent tag for hole in dumpster**
- **High level tag received for inconsistencies in location of up to date "code status"**
- **High level tag received for lack of emergency supply of materials for trach and/or dialysis resident (appropriate size of any needed materials – within in immediate reach and clearly marked as belonging to that resident)**
- Proof of required dementia training.



- Documentation for use of psychotropic medication
- Review of ADL Care
- Boosters are given to residents.
- Requirements for TB and immunizations.
- All staff fit tested for N95 masks
- Bed Hold Policies and Return to Facility
- Observation of proper mask wearing (masks must cover nose and mouth).
- Completeness of resident service agreements.
- Observation of staff encouraging residents to wear masks appropriately
- PASSAR procedures and documentation
- Review of appropriate discharge procedures including notification and time limits
- Resident Rights, re: dignity and respect, call bell not in reach, failure to notify guardian, wall damaged
- Admission/Transfer/Discharge, re: ensure resident returned to facility
- Resident Assessment, re: accurately assess oral health
- Compressive Resident Care Plans, re: develop care plan for resident with broken teeth, re: inaccurate care plan for resident who is unvaccinated, missing intervention for resident with Chronic Kidney disease
- Quality Of Care, re: missing communication from dialysis unit
- Pharmacy Services, re: insulin pen missing expiration date
- Food and Nutrition, re: accommodate food preferences, missing assistive devices
- Administration, re: accuracy of clinical record, unclear CNA documentation for shower/bed bath, clinical order was not revised after discharge
- Kitchen:
  - Cleanliness of screen over stove
  - Fly traps
  - Accessibility of kitchen sink
  - Avoiding using any moisture trapping materials in food storage racks
  - Handwashing sink didn't have a sign, food with mold in walk in, water pooling on floor of refrigerator

## **Flu Update**

[MMWR Weekly No. 23 and 24](#)

## **Emerging Infectious Diseases Report – Attached**

## **Is Your Business a Superstar? Enter Delaware State Chamber's Superstars in Business Competition**

Presented by the Delaware State Chamber of Commerce, **the Marvin S. Gilman Superstars in Business** awards honor businesses and nonprofits for their outstanding achievements and model approaches to business and management. Each year, 4 winners are selected. To be considered, you must submit an application about your business philosophy and results, what makes you stand apart from competitors, business challenges and community involvement.

To qualify, businesses must be at least three years old and have 150 or fewer employees  
The application **deadline is July 14 at 4:30 pm.**

If you believe your company is a Superstar, you can fill out your application at [this link](#). Feeling stuck on your application? The Chamber provides an [application workshop video](#) with tips for how to write your best application. If you still have questions, please email Kerri Welcher at [kwelcher@dsc.com](mailto:kwelcher@dsc.com).



SEPTEMBER 29  
ED CONFERENCE/  
TRADE SHOW  
FEAT.  
DEMENTIA CARE LIVE!  
WITH AGE-U-CATE  
+ MORE, DOVER

OCTOBER 19  
ASSISTED LIVING  
INTENSIVE  
SEMINAR  
MAPLE DALE  
COUNTRY CLUB, DOVER

DECEMBER 8  
EDUCATION  
AFTERNOON +  
HOLIDAY SOCIAL  
WILMINGTON

SAVE  
THE  
DATE

DETAILS AND REGISTRATION  
TO COME SOON

dhcfa FALL