

LTC Information Update: July 2, 2020

ANNOUNCEMENTS

❖ Updates to the COVID-19 Module for LTCFs

In efforts to continue support of the nation's COVID-19 response, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) is excited to announce the following updates to the COVID-19 Module for Long-Term Care Facilities (LTCF):

1. An NHSN **COVID-19 Module Dashboard for LTCFs** is now available for participating groups **and** facilities. The dashboard provides a summary of data entered in the COVID-19 Module and includes an interactive chart display where a user may customize data views. This first edition of the dashboard is concentrated on the *Resident Impact and Facility Capacity* pathway. However, we've already started working on the next edition, which will continue additional pathways and analysis options!! Guidance documents for groups and facilities to assist with navigating and understanding the features are available on the NHSN [LTCF COVID-19 Web-page](#).
2. **You asked, and we listened!** We recognize that many SNFs are setting up COVID-19 units to receive transfers from other LTCFs, such as Assisted Living Residences. These transfers result in increased demand on the receiving LTCFs. Therefore, the count for "*Admissions*" has been revised to include admissions and readmissions of residents who were previously diagnosed with COVID-19 from another facility. For additional information, please review the revised data collection form and accompanying instructions for the *Resident Impact and Facility Capacity* pathway. **Note:** LTCFs may update previously entered "*Admissions*" counts, but this is not a requirement.
3. **We aim to improve the quality of the COVID-19 data being reported.** Users will notice Pop-up alerts as a reminder of potential data entry errors. For example, if a user attempts to enter more *COVID-19 Deaths* than *Total Deaths*, a pop-up alert will appear to remind user of the definitions. As a reminder, "*COVID-19 Deaths*" counts must be included in the *Total Deaths* count since *Total Deaths* is defined as the number of residents who died **for any reason** in the LTCF or another location since the last time "*Total Deaths*" counts were collected for reporting in the NHSN COVID-19 Module. For both counts, only include the **NEW** deaths since the last time the counts were collected for reporting in the Module, as the intent is to capture incidence.
4. **Non-modifiable** fields have been added to each of the four pathway screens. Users will notice that each pathway now has three additional pieces of information displayed at the top of each pathway: *Date Created*, *Facility CCN*, and *Facility Type*.

The purpose of *Date Created* is to display the first date and time of data entry (manual or CSV file upload) for a selected calendar date and pathway. The date and time will automatically save and **cannot** be modified by the user.

The *Facility CCN* and *Facility Type* will also populate for each facility, allowing users to quickly verify the information associated with the data being submitted to CMS. These two variables may be edited by a facility user with NHSN Administrative rights; however, edits must be done outside of the COVID-19 Module by accessing *Facility Info* on the left navigation panel. Guidance documents are attached to this e-mail, as well as available under Facility Resources on the NHSN [LTCF COVID-19 Web-page](#), which can be accessed through the following link - <https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/ltc/covid19/index.html> (you may need to copy and paste web-link into Internet browser).

Be sure to check-out the July NHSN LTCF newsletter for additional information and exciting updates! If you have questions, please send them to nhsn@cdc.gov and include LTCF in the subject line.