



[Home](#) | [About Us](#) | [Medicaid](#) | [Licensure & Regulation](#) | [Report Fraud](#)

October 12, 2020

Nursing Home Update on County Positivity Rate Sources and Additional Guidance on Communal Activities

County Positivity Rate Sources

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) have issued an update to CMS Memo [QSO-20-38-NH](#) to allow nursing homes to use **either the state or federal published county positivity rates** to determine the frequency of routine staff testing.

Counties with 20 or fewer tests over 14 days will now move to “green” in the color-coded system of assessing COVID-19 community prevalence. Counties with both fewer than 500 tests and fewer than 2,000 tests per 100,000 residents, and greater than 10 percent positivity over 14 days – which would have been “red” under the previous methodology – will move to “yellow.”

Once a facility has chosen either state or federal published county positivity rates the facility must document the source, date, and rate that are used and continue to use the same source each week.

The Florida Department of Health county positivity rates are posted to <http://ahca.myflorida.com/docs/PositivityRate2020.pdf>. This link will be updated weekly and is located on the Agency's COVID19 Alerts page (http://ahca.myflorida.com/COVID-19_Facilities.shtml#facility) under the 'Testing' section.

For additional information please visit <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-updates-covid-19-testing-methodology-nursing-homes>.

Communal Activities

The Agency has received inquiries concerning communal activities for nursing home residents. The current CMS guidance concerning Reopening Recommendations is not intended to completely restrict communal activities, except in the case of a resident with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 or a confirmed case. Please refer to CMS Memos ([QSO-20-39-NH](#) and [QSO-20-30-NH](#) revised 9/28/2020) for additional guidance on communal activities. In June 2020, CMS also released a [Frequently Asked Questions](#) document on visitation, which expanded on previously issued guidance on topics such as outdoor visits, compassionate care situations, and communal activities.

The Agency for Health Care Administration is committed to better health care for all Floridians. The Agency administers Florida's Medicaid program, licenses and regulates more than 44,000 health care facilities and 53 health plans, and publishes health care data and statistics at www.FloridaHealthFinder.gov. Additional information about Agency initiatives is available via [Facebook \(AHCAFlorida\)](#), [Twitter \(@AHCA_FL\)](#) and [YouTube \(/AHCAFlorida\)](#).