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**November 18, 2020**

## **Long Term Care Facilities Update**

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### **ESS Reporting Requirements**

It is imperative that facilities continue to report daily in the [Emergency Status System](#) (ESS) to maintain up to date, accurate information. The ***Agency is citing deficiencies for any facility that is not complying with daily 10 AM reporting deadline.***

### **ESS Reporting Changes**

Effective November 18, 2020, the event tab for long term care facilities labeled "Add'l Info" has been updated. Descriptions are available at [http://ahca.myflorida.com/COVID-19\\_Facilities.shtml#facility](http://ahca.myflorida.com/COVID-19_Facilities.shtml#facility) for each question for reporting correctly.

### **COVID19 Test Results Reporting**

All facilities conducting COVID-19 testing must report results within 24 hours of results to the Department of Health. Laboratories and waived labs **MUST** report all positive, negative, and indeterminate test results for Florida residents.

Per Department of Health [Emergency Rule 64DER20-34, FAC](#), all test results must be submitted electronically, using one of the electronic reporting methods listed below:

- Electronic laboratory reporting: generation of an electronic commaseparated value (CSV) or Health Level 7 (HL7) formatted message.
- National Healthcare Safety Network COVID-19 module for Centers for Medicare and Medicaid-certified long-term care facilities.

- COVID-19 Reporting Portal: for entities that perform COVID-19 testing that are unable to generate an electronic CSV or HL7 formatted message.

**Registration in one of these methods, must be completed within 7 days of the effective date of the Emergency Rule 64DER20-34 (11/12/2020), or within 7 days of obtaining the ability to conduct testing.**

The Florida DOH has created a COVID-19 Reporting Portal to assist facilities with electronic submission of test results. Please review the [COVID-19 Reporting Portal Facility Registration Process](#) for instructions on utilizing the portal.

Facilities currently reporting COVID-19 Point of Care testing results to the Center for Disease Control's National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) are NOT required to report in the Florida DOH COVID-19 Reporting Portal. **However, facilities must still report positive cases to the County Public Health Department for outbreak reporting.**

AHCA administers the CLIA program on behalf of CMS and will conduct onsite investigations for cases of non-compliance. To request assistance with reporting, please email [provider.covid19@flhealth.gov](mailto:provider.covid19@flhealth.gov).

### **Infection Control Information**

The Agency is sharing training materials and other guidance provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to assist facilities and other providers in infection control and prevention.

When providers are administering care to patients and residents in their homes or at a health care facility, appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) must be used, including facemasks and gloves. It is key that providers are following infection prevention and control protocols when [putting on and taking off PPE](#).

To assist providers in ensuring they are following infection prevention and control protocols, the Agency recommends review of trainings available on the CDC website. The CDC also offers COVID-19-related training through the [TRAIN Learning Network](#).

Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations:

[https://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2020/callinfo\\_031320.asp](https://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2020/callinfo_031320.asp)

If you require additional assistance with ESS, please contact your AHCA licensing unit:

Assisted Living Unit, 850-412-4304

Long Term Care Services Unit, 850-412-4303

Hospital Unit, 850-412-4549

*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](http://www.FloridaHealthFinder.gov). Additional information about Agency initiatives is available via [Facebook \(AHCAFlorida\)](#), [Twitter \(@AHCA\\_FL\)](#) and [YouTube \(/AHCAFlorida\)](#).*

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