



December 4, 2020

Dear Nursing Home Administrator:

On November 17, 2020, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a news release recognizing the approximately 12.5% of nursing home staff and management around the country who completed “CMS Targeted COVID-19 Training for Frontline Nursing Home Staff & Management”, first announced on August 25, 2020. CMS recognized 41 nursing homes in Illinois at which 50% or more the staff have completed the CMS Targeted COVID-19 Training.

This free training includes topics such as infection control, personal protective equipment, disinfection, screening, surveillance, cohorting and caring for individuals with dementia during a pandemic. CMS developed this training in consultation with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and expert stakeholders. The training has five (5) specific modules designed for frontline clinical staff and ten (10) modules designed for nursing home management.

CMS has again urged nursing homes to require their staff to take this free training. Therefore, the IDPH is adopting an emergency rule requiring all frontline clinical staff and management at Long-Term Care (LTC) facilities to complete the free training provided by CMS. By December 31, 2020, all LTC facilities, as defined under the Nursing Home Care Act, shall have achieved at least 50% completion of the CMS training frontline clinical staff and management. By January 31, 2021, all frontline clinical staff and management shall have completed the CMS training. The frontline staff will be required to take the five (5) specific modules designed for them and the management staff will be required to take ten (10) specific modules designed for them.

The free training can be accessed on the CMS Quality, Safety & Education Portal at <https://QSEP.cms.gov> . Instructions on how to create an account and take the training are available at <https://qsep.cms.gov/welcome.aspx> . The emergency rule is attached to this email.

If you have any questions about the required training, please contact:

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Email: [michelle.millard@illinois.gov](mailto:michelle.millard@illinois.gov)

Thank you for your cooperation and prompt attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alfonso Cano III". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line extending from the end.

Alfonso Cano III  
Bureau Chief, Long-Term Care  
Office of Health Care Regulation  
Illinois Department of Public Health

AC:tmh

cc: OHCR Department File

Attachment: Part 300 Skilled Nursing and Intermediate Care Facilities Code