

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop S3-02-01  
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850



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January 13, 2025

Robert G. Ortt  
Senate Minority Leader  
District Office  
175 Walnut Street Suite #6  
Lockport, NY 14094  
ORTT@NYSENATE.GOV

Dear Senator Ortt,

Thank you for contacting the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) regarding COVID-19 guidelines issued by CMS and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in March 2020.

On March 4, 2020, CMS released guidance in QSO [memorandum 20-14-NH](#) to state survey agencies and nursing homes, which included information stating that a nursing home can accept a resident diagnosed with COVID-19 who is still under Transmission-Based Precautions for COVID-19, as long as the facility can adhere to CDC guidance for Transmission-Based Precautions. If a nursing home cannot maintain these precautions, it must hold admission until the resident is no longer under Transmission-Based Precautions.

CMS revised this memorandum on [March 9, 2020](#), to provide additional guidance related to responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency. Additionally, we issued memorandum [QSO-20-17-All](#) to provide guidance on the use of respirators by health care personnel in all settings. Finally, on April 14, 2020, we released [QSO-20-25-NH](#) that provided guidance on transferring residents to and from nursing homes.

We hope you find this information helpful. Please feel free to contact us if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dora L. Hughes" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dora L. Hughes, M.D., M.P.H.  
Acting Director,  
Center for Clinical Standards and Quality  
Chief Medical Officer  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services