

To: All Nursing Facilities and Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IIDs)

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Advisory Memo: Clinical Students and Instructors in Nursing Facilities and ICF/IIDs

This Advisory Memo provides an update on allowing clinical students and their instructors into nursing facilities and Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IIDs).

The Division of Licensing and Certification (DLC), after consultation with the Office of Aging and Disability Services (OADS) and the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), is clarifying that clinical students (Certified Nursing Assistants, nursing students, and medical students), as well as their clinical instructors, are considered to be essential health care workers and may be allowed into a nursing facility or ICF/IID to complete their clinicals, provided the following conditions are met:

- *The facility has an agreement with the training entity/school that clearly:
 - States who is responsible for the testing of students and instructors (both groups will have to meet the same COVID-19 testing and retesting requirements as facility staff). Please see CMS QSO-20-38-NH memo for additional information;
 - States how the facility will document evidence of student/instructor testing;
 - States that the facility must keep a copy of the results on file in the facility; and
 - States who is responsible for conducting medical screening and N95 fit testing of students/instructors prior to their use of N95 masks.

Additionally:

*The facility must ensure that all clinical students and instructors are trained and competent in the use of appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE);

* The facility must provide PPE for students and instructors consistent with that being worn by facility staff; and

* The facility must ensure that students and instructors are screened daily for COVID-19 symptoms prior to entering the facility, consistent with CDC guidelines.

Thank you for all you are doing to keep your residents safe during this crisis. Please continue to monitor CDC and Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) websites for changes and additional clarifications as this crisis and the guidelines for your agencies continue to evolve. Please feel free to reach out to us here at DLC if you have questions regarding this Advisory Memo.