

# Recommendations for Acute and Continuing Care

April 20, 2020

The Health Facilities Program of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Bureau of Community Health Systems is responsible for the Survey and Certification of Acute and Continuing Care health care facilities in Kansas inclusive of acute care and specialty hospitals, home health and hospice agencies, ambulatory surgical centers, rural health clinics, Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities, End Stage Renal Disease facilities, Birthing Centers, Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facilities, Critical Access Hospitals, Mobile X-Ray and Out Patient Physical Therapy providers. We are committed to the protection of patients and clients of healthcare facilities from the spread of infectious disease. Every participating facility must adhere to standards for infection prevention and control to provide safe, high quality care. As concerns continue to emerge regarding the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) threat, KDHE encourages all healthcare facilities to carefully review the information provided by our partners at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Beginning March 4, 2020, CMS suspended non-emergency survey inspections across the country, allowing inspectors to turn their focus on the most serious health and safety threats like infectious diseases and abuse. This shift in approach allows inspectors to focus on addressing the spread of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). KDHE is urging healthcare facilities to maintain compliance with current CDC and CMS requirements and safety standards, specifically infection control procedures. Providers and suppliers are strongly urged to monitor the [COVID-19 CDC website](#) and follow recommended guidelines and acceptable standards of practice. Recently issued guidance for State Agency (SA) and Accrediting Organization (AO) regarding the facility types we specifically work with and others can be accessed on the following website that is regularly updated by CMS:

<https://www.cms.gov/medicare/quality-safety-oversight-general-information/coronavirus>

## **Additional helpful CMS sites that are continually updated:**

For a complete and updated list of CMS actions, and other information specific to CMS, please visit the [Current Emergencies Website](#). This site provides information regarding public health emergencies that are happening now including information relevant to our health care facility types. Information can be found regarding Coronavirus 1135 Waivers, Clinical and Technical Guidelines for all healthcare providers and providers as well as Survey and Certification Guidelines.

**Resources for healthcare professionals:** [www.coronavirus.gov](http://www.coronavirus.gov)

**Resource for 1135 Waivers:**

<https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/SurveyCertEmergPrep/1135-Waivers>

**For questions regarding State licensure of the Acute and Continuing Care facility types during the COVID -19 crisis, please contact via email:**

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