



State of New Jersey  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
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[www.nj.gov/health](http://www.nj.gov/health)

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Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER  
Lt. Governor

JUDITH M. PERSICILLI, RN, BSN, MA  
Commissioner

April 4, 2020

**TO:** Administrators  
Long-term Care Facilities Licensed Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:39  
Assisted Living Residences Licensed Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:36  
Comprehensive Personal Care Homes Licensed Pursuant to  
N.J.A.C. 8:36  
Residential Health Care Facilities Licensed Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:42  
Dementia Care Homes Licensed Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:37

**FROM:** Judith M. Persichilli, R.N., B.S.N., M.A.  
Commissioner

**SUBJECT:** Notification of Residents, Residents' Families, Visitors and Staff in the  
Event of a Contagious Disease Outbreak in a Facility

The virus that causes Coronavirus 2019 Disease ("COVID-19") is easily transmitted, especially in group settings, and it is essential that the spread of the virus be slowed to protect the ability of public and private health care providers to handle the influx of new patients and safeguard public health and safety. Many residents of health care facilities are being treated for health conditions that make them particularly vulnerable to suffering the most serious complications of COVID-19 infection, including death. Also, medical personnel and other essential staff of facilities will likely experience increased chance of exposure to COVID-19.

Because of the risk of the rapid spread of the virus, and the need to protect all members of the community, especially residents of health care facilities and health care providers, the Department of Health (DOH) is providing the following regarding notification requirements. Part of the outbreak response plan your facility was required to develop by February 2020 under N.J.S.A. 26:2H-12.87 (statute) was a requirement to address the statutory requirement for "clear policies for the notification of residents, residents' families, visitors, and staff in the event of an outbreak of a contagious disease at a facility."

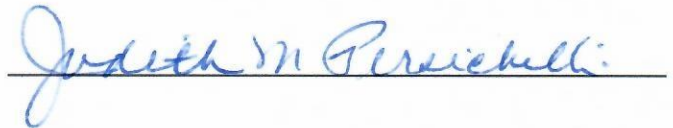
The Department has determined that proper notification pursuant to the statute requires the facility to do the following:

- I. Notification is to be completed within 24 hours to all facility residents, staff members, permissible visitors and the contact person in number 3 below whenever or in each instance a case of COVID-19 has been diagnosed in a

resident or staff member of the facility or the facility has a resident or staff member who is a person under investigation for COVID-19, in the following manner:

1. In person and in writing for all residents, as appropriate;
  2. In person and in writing for all staff members;
  3. In person and in writing for all permissible visitors; and
  4. Notification via telephone, email, or other method of communication the facility is using to notify the resident's family member, guardian or designated person during this time of restricted visitation, as well as any visitors, to be followed up in writing within three days.
- II. Notification for subsequent confirmed or person under investigation cases may be done via telephone, email, or other method of communication the facility is using to notify the resident's family member, guardian or designated person during this time of restricted visitation, as well as any visitors.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Ms. Jean DeVitto, Executive Director, Certificate of Need and Healthcare Facility Licensure Program at [jean.devitto@doh.nj.gov](mailto:jean.devitto@doh.nj.gov).



*Judith M. Persichelli*