|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES**Division of Quality AssuranceF-02734 (10/2020) | **STATE OF WISCONSIN** |
| **NURSING HOME NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO USE ASYMPTOMATIC, COVID POSITIVE STAFF** **For Provision of Resident Care Before Completing CDC Recommended Isolation** |
| * The Department of Health Services (DHS) requests that nursing homes notify their Division of Quality Assurance (DQA), [Bureau of Nursing Home Resident Care (BNHRC) regional office](https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/dqa/bnhrc-regionalmap.htm) and their [local public health department (LHD)](https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/lh-depts/contacts/local-health-department-listing.pdf) when the facility intends to have asymptomatic, COVID positive healthcare workers return to work and provide resident care before finishing the CDC [recommended isolation](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/return-to-work.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fhealthcare-facilities%2Fhcp-return-work.html).
* **The use of this form is not mandatory for notification; however, notification should include the information provided in this form.**
* Staffing shortages should be re-evaluated regularly to determine whether exceptions to isolation remain necessary for resident safety.
 |
| I hereby notify the DQA, BNHRC regional office and the |       |
|  | *Name – Local Public Health Department* |
| that |       |
|  | *Name – Facility* |
| is facing a critical staffing shortage and has implemented additional strategies to address staffing shortages. Requiring a CDC [recommended isolation](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/return-to-work.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fhealthcare-facilities%2Fhcp-return-work.html) of direct caregiving staff will adversely impact patient care.  |

 The above-named facility has taken the following steps to ensure patient safety.

* Reviewed and implemented the [Strategies to Lessen Staffing Shortages](https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/nursing-homes.htm#planning-for-staff-shortages) **contained in the DHS guidance**
* Communicated with [WEAVR](https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/preparedness/weavr/index.htm) to increase staffing at the facility
* Allowed quarantined staff exposed to COVID-19 to come back to work as indicated in [HAN 18](https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/WIDHS/bulletins/2a5760d) before completing the full 14-day quarantine
* Assessed their PPE supply and have an adequate supply to care for residents
* Educated asymptomatic, COVID positive staff to self-monitor for symptoms and to immediately report any symptoms of COVID-19 to their supervisor
* Educated asymptomatic, COVID positive staff to limit their presence in the facility to the COVID-19 unit
* Provided a separate staff entrance and break area for asymptomatic staff who have tested positive for COVID-19

When asymptomatic, COVID positive staff return to work, they will:

* Report a temperature and absence of symptoms before each shift.
* Wear a facemask at all times for source control while in the facility. A higher level of personal protective equipment will be used when indicated.
* Adhere to the requirement of home isolation, limiting close contact with others to the greatest degree possible, except while scheduled to work.
* Stop working, notify their supervisor, and return home if they develop even mild symptoms at any time.

We will re-evaluate the need to use asymptomatic, COVID-19 positive staff on an ongoing basis. We will notify the Division of Quality Assurance and the local public health department if it remains necessary to have asymptomatic, COVID positive healthcare workers return to work before finishing the recommended isolation beyond 14 days from the date of this notification.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **SIGNATURE** – Medical Director  | Name – Medical Director *(Print or type.)* | Date Signed |
|  |       |       |