



Department of Health

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

HOWARD A. ZUCKER, M.D., J.D.
Commissioner

LISA J. PINO, M.A., J.D.
Executive Deputy Commissioner

July 17, 2020

Re: DAL NH 20-03
Notification of Non-emergent Resident
Transfers to the Hospital and Skilled
Nursing Facilities

Dear Nursing Home Administrator:

The purpose of this letter is to remind nursing homes of their obligations prior to relocating residents, as set forth in the New York State Department of Health directive dated May 11, 2020. That directive states that if a nursing home is not able to provide adequate care to a resident at any time during that resident's stay, the nursing home **must** contact their respective regional office of the Department of Health to provide necessary information and assist with any relocation needs, including but not limited to assistance with arranging transportation to an alternate facility that can provide adequate care needed for the resident.

There are facilities available for COVID-19 positive residents that require skilled nursing care. These facilities are available around the state, and the Department of Health can assist with the identification of available beds upon notification from nursing homes.

Therefore, pursuant to the May 11, 2020 directive and to ensure residents are placed in the most appropriate settings, prior to **non-emergent** COVID-19 resident transfers, the nursing home must inform and communicate with their respective regional office and local health department any of the following circumstances **prior to transfer**:

- Resident transfer to the emergency room, where the main purpose for the transfer is hospital admission related to the nursing home's inability to manage and provide adequate care to the resident due to their COVID-19 status;
- Resident transfer to another nursing home, where the main purpose for the transfer is due to the nursing home's inability to care for the resident(s); and
- Resident transfer is necessary to meet cohorting requirements. This includes COVID-19 transfer arrangements between all facilities.

For after-hours notification under these circumstances, the nursing home must provide notification to the New York State Department of Health Duty Officer. That number is 1-866-881-2809.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue affecting residents of New York State nursing homes. If you have further questions regarding your obligations as it relates to non-emergent COVID 19 transfers or discharges, please email: covidnursinghomeinfo@health.ny.gov

Sincerely,

Sheila McGarvey

Director
Division of Nursing Homes and ICF/IID
Surveillance
Center for Health Care Quality and Surveillance