



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES  
*Aging and Long-Term Support Administration*  
*PO Box 45600, Olympia, Washington 98504-5600*

September 24, 2021

**AL TSA: NH #2021-075**  
**INTERIM FINAL RULE**

**(IFC), CMS-3401-IFC, ADDITIONAL POLICY AND REGULATORY REVISIONS IN  
RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY RELATED TO LONG-TERM  
CARE (LTC) FACILITY TESTING REQUIREMENTS**

Dear Nursing Facility/Home Administrator:

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid updated QSO-20-38-NH that was originally published August 26, 2020. The QSO-20-38-NH discussed the final rule 3401-IFC that included guidance for COVID-19 testing in nursing homes with authorized nucleic acid or antigen detection assays as an important addition to other infection prevention and control (IPC). The purpose was aimed at preventing COVID-19 from entering nursing homes, detecting positive cases quickly, and allowing the facility to take immediate action to remove exposure risks to staff and residents to stop transmission. In addition, CMS referenced tag F886 which included the guidance and testing requirements.

On 9/10/2021, CMS updated [QSO-20-38-NH](#) and the guidance for F886, which included the testing criteria and procedures for COVID-19 staff testing based on the facility's county level of community transmission instead of county test positivity rate. The frequency of testing has also been updated. In addition, facilities now have two options to conduct outbreak testing, through either a contact tracing or broad-based testing approach.

Thank you for your continued commitment to resident health and safety. If you have any questions, please contact Molly McClintock, Nursing Home Policy Program Manager, at (360) 742-6966 or [molly.mcclintock@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:molly.mcclintock@dshs.wa.gov).

Sincerely,

Mike Anbesse, Director  
Residential Care Services

*DSHS: "Transforming Lives"*