

December 15, 2021

<Provider Name>  
<Provider Address 1> -  
<Provider Address 2>  
<City> <State> zipcode5-zipcode4

Dear Provider:

RE: COVID-19 Response: Policy for COVID-Relief Facilities (CRFs) to Treat COVID-19 Residents Requiring Nursing Facility (NF) Care in Limited Circumstances

The purpose of this letter is to provide additional guidance and clarification to eligible NFs on the Minimum Participation Criteria as reviewed and assessed during the Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) annual NF application and determination process.

As described in bulletin MSA 21-40, NFs must meet the minimum participation criteria to qualify for CRF (Tier 1 and Tier 2) designation, including having dedicated staff to serve only COVID-positive residents.

When assessing ability to meet the minimum participation criteria, NFs may consider the following functional criteria to determine if they are able to provide an appropriate staffing plan based on the tier of designation they are seeking:

### **COVID-Relief Facilities - Tier 1**

Dedicated staffing is considered met when the NF can **designate staff** to ensure resident care needs are met while mitigating the risk of cross contamination. Designate means a staff person will work from standard precautions to transmission-based precautions with high emphasis on infection prevention practices such as proper use of personal protective equipment, hand hygiene, and cleaning/disinfection. While a minimum number of staff must be present on the unit at all times to ensure safety of COVID-positive residents on transmission-based precautions, some care team members could be designated to support resident care needs.

### **COVID-Relief Facilities - Tier 2**

Dedicated staffing is considered met when the NF can **devote staff** to work on their COVID-positive unit by shift to serve only COVID-positive residents. NFs designated as CRF Tier 2 must be able to devote adequate staff to their COVID-positive unit to ensure the NF is able to safely admit new COVID-positive residents as community conditions may necessitate.

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The functional criteria outlined above does not remove, replace, or otherwise diminish infection control standards outlined in bulletin MSA 21-40. Nursing Facilities should continue to ensure staff working throughout the facility and specifically with COVID-positive residents are trained and can demonstrate understanding of appropriate infection control practices.

NFs that do not submit a FY22 application will be required to transfer any COVID-positive residents to an alternate location, including a Care and Recovery Center (CRC) or CRF Tier 2 facility beginning January 1, 2022. Note that currently operating CRC facilities are not required to apply in the FY22 application cycle unless seeking CRF designation under a distinct bed plan separate from the currently approved CRC beds. Should a CRC decommission during FY22, MDHHS will facilitate a coordinated process to achieve CRF status during the standard CRC decommission process.

An electronic version of this document is available at [www.michigan.gov/medicaidproviders](http://www.michigan.gov/medicaidproviders) >> Policy, Letters & Forms.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Massey', followed by a horizontal line.

Kate Massey, Director  
Health and Aging Services Administration