

January 26, 2022

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

Dear Provider:

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

Pursuant to ongoing concerns about community conditions and increased transmissibility of the SARS-CoV-2 Omicron variant, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is extending the application window for COVID Relief Facility designation as described in bulletin [MSA 21-40](#) and letter [L 21-85](#). The application window is being extended to February 28, 2022, allowing facilities to apply for MDHHS approval to retain COVID-positive residents (CR Tier 1) and, with enhanced standards under special circumstances, to admit new COVID-positive residents (CR Tier 2) when additional capacity is needed. The MDHHS Infection Prevention Resource and Assessment Team (IPRAT) is available to support facilities with the application process and to promote adequate infection prevention practices. The IPRAT may be contacted at MDHHS-IPRAT@michigan.gov.

NFs that previously applied in fiscal year (FY)21 and remain in good standing, i.e., have not subsequently received an MDHHS-initiated notice to decommission, can retain their FY21 status through the FY22 application process. Facilities that did not apply in FY21 or were decommissioned should apply as soon as possible to support retention of COVID-positive residents.

Facilities that have a current Care and Recovery Center (CRC) status are not required to submit a COVID-Relief Facility application. Facilities that previously applied in the FY22 application cycle need not re-apply.

By extending the application period, this letter also effectively extends the period to care for COVID-positive residents in place, assuming previous MDHHS designation is in good standing, the facility has completed a FY22 application, and the facility is working with IPRAT through the application process. Following the close of the application window on February 28, 2022, NFs that have not submitted a FY22 application will be required to transfer any COVID-positive residents to an alternate location, including a CRC or CR Tier 2 facility.

L 22-03

This letter also serves to remind facilities that the CR Facility designation is fluid. While a facility must use the designated beds/unit for the care of COVID-positive residents only, the opportunity to adapt the size, layout, and conditions of the designated area exists through the Capacity Change Request. The Capacity Change Request allows MDHHS designated CR facilities the flexibility to adapt to the changing conditions within their community to meet the needs specific to their facility as conditions change over time. The Capacity Change Request form is available at www.michigan.gov/LTCCOVIDPlan >> CRC & CRF Programs

An electronic version of this document is available at www.michigan.gov/medicaidproviders >> Policy, Letters & Forms.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Massey', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kate Massey, Director
Health and Aging Services Administration