

HPMS E-Mail

Date: March 23, 2020

Subject: Findings at Kirkland Nursing Home and New Targeted Plan for Healthcare Facility Inspections in light of COVID-19

Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is announcing the preliminary results of a recent inspection of the Life Care Center nursing home in Kirkland, Washington – the epicenter of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak in that state. The inspection, which the Agency conducted with the Washington Department of Social & Health Services, has helped inform CMS's national strategy for keeping patients safe in nursing homes and other healthcare facilities. In keeping with the Trump Administration's aggressive moves to combat further spread of COVID-19, CMS is also utilizing flexibilities allowed by President Trump's Emergency Declaration to announce an enhanced, focused inspection process, informed in part by the Agency's experiences on the ground in Kirkland, and close coordination and input from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This focused inspection process will be provided to all inspectors and facilities, and used on a national scale. Critically, this focused inspection process includes a self-assessment tool for providers to employ.

You can find a copy of the press release here: - <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-announces-findings-kirkland-nursing-home-and-new-targeted-plan-healthcare-facility-inspections> Please note that links to the guidance can be found in the press release.

You can find a copy of the fact sheet here: - <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/kirkland-washington-update-and-survey-prioritization-fact-sheet>

And Talking Points - CMS Administrator Seema Verma's Remarks as Prepared for Delivery: Updates on Healthcare Facility Inspections in light of COVID-19–
<https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-administrator-seema-vermas-remarks-prepared-delivery-updates-healthcare-facility-inspections>

This [guidance](#), and earlier CMS actions in response to the COVID-19 virus, are part of the ongoing White House Task Force efforts. To keep up with the important work the Task Force is doing in response to COVID-19 click here www.coronavirus.gov. For information specific to CMS, please visit the [Current Emergencies Website](#).

