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Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 5:11 PM
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Subject: Infection Prevention Case Management

Good Afternoon:

Due to the State of Emergency and COVID-19 response, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) had to shift the primary focus of the Health Facility Evaluator Nurse (HFEN) workforce to infection prevention education in Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs) and other facilities regulated by the Department of Social Services.

The COVID-19 response has highlighted gaps in quality and safety at our SNFs. High fatality rates, fast infection spread rates, and lack of consistency with infection control precautions have exposed an immediate need for a sustainable presence for oversight and re-education. In order to create a culture of safety and regulatory compliance, it has been deemed necessary to the expand the HFEN's infection prevention responsibilities in the SNFs. HFENs will be responsible for providing technical assistance, education, and training on plans of correction and unresolved action items during daily onsite facility visits. Depending on geographical distance of facilities, this may include video calls in addition to site visits. The CDPH will provide masks, gowns, gloves, and safety glasses or face shields to all HFENs for site visits and has an adequate supply of personal protective equipment (PPE) for all HFENs.

The anticipated effective date for implementation is on or about June 15, 2020, and will continue for 8-12 months. Attached is a copy of the updated HFEN duty statement.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Sharron Terry, Labor Relations Specialist
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