



Indiana State
Department of Health

LONG TERM CARE NEWSLETTER

ISDH Long Term Care Newsletter
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Today's Issue:

- Emergency Order Authorizing Temporary Personal Care Attendant Position and Training for Residential Care Facilities
- Third Emergency Order Granting Temporary Dining Assistant Training and Transportation to Community-Based Activities for Residential Care Facilities
- Third Emergency Order Granting Temporary Blanket Waiver for Comprehensive Care Facilities
- Direct Care Providers Use of Mask - Dr. Kristina Box

Emergency Order Authorizing Temporary Personal Care Attendant Position and Training for Residential Care Facilities

Pursuant to the “Declaration of Public Health Emergency for Coronavirus Disease 2019 Outbreak” issued by Governor Eric Holcomb on March 6, 2020 (the “Governor’s Declaration”) and IC 4-21.5-4, the Indiana State Health Commissioner hereby **ORDERS** as follows, effective retroactively as of **March 6, 2020**:

Licensed Indiana residential care facilities, as a supplement to other personnel, may train and subsequently utilize temporary Personal Care Attendants (“PCAs”) in compliance with the terms and provisions of the attached “Temporary COVID-19 Personal Care Attendant (Waiver Aide)” document.

PCAs trained and hired pursuant to this Order are explicitly deemed to be “employees” within Paragraph 1 of the Commissioner’s March 20, 2020 “Emergency Order granting Temporary Blanket Waivers for Residential Care Facilities,” which waived compliance with specified portions of 410 IAC 16.2-5-1.4 and 410 IAC 16.2-5-12.

[Complete signed order: EMERGENCY ORDER AUTHORIZING TEMPORARY PERSONAL CARE ATTENDANT POSITIONS & TRAINING FOR RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITIES](#)

Third Emergency Order Granting Temporary Dining Assistant Training and Transportation to Community-Based Activities for Residential Care Facilities

Pursuant to the “Declaration of Public Health Emergency for Coronavirus Disease 2019 Outbreak” issued by Governor Eric Holcomb on March 6, 2020 (the “Governor’s Declaration”) and IC 4-21.5-4-1, and as authorized by IC 16-28-1-10 and the September 18, 1991 resolution of the Executive Board of the Indiana State Department of Health (“ISDH”), the Indiana State Health Commissioner hereby **ORDERS** as follows:

Compliance by licensed Indiana residential care facilities with portions of certain state rules is **WAIVED**, subject to the specified terms, conditions, and limits set forth below:

1. The requirements of 410 IAC 16.2-5-13 (“Dining assistants”) are **waived** with modification as follows:

An individual not otherwise permitted to perform dining assistant functions in accordance with 410 IAC 16.2-5-13 may provide dining assistance to a facility’s residents if the facility documents that:

A. The individual has been trained by a registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, dietician, occupational therapist, speech therapist, or speech language pathologist on the following:

- 1. Feeding techniques appropriate to the individual resident(s);**
- 2. Special diets including physician ordered altered thickened liquid;**
- 3. Reporting food and fluid intake;**
- 4. Infection control;**
- 5. Safety/emergency procedures including the Heimlich maneuver; and**
- 6. Abuse, neglect and misappropriation of property, if such training has not already**

been given; and

B. The individual is prohibited from (1) providing dining assistance to residents with known choking or swallowing difficulties, and (2) administering or overseeing tube or parenteral/IV feedings.

2. The requirement under 410 IAC 16.2-5-7.1(b) that “[t]he facility shall provide and/or coordinate scheduled transportation to community-based activities” is **waived**.

[Complete Signed Order: THIRD EMERGENCY ORDER GRANTING TEMPORARY BLANKET WAIVERS FOR RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITIES](#)

Third Emergency Order Granting Temporary Blanket Waiver for Comprehensive Care Facilities

Pursuant to the “Declaration of Public Health Emergency for Coronavirus Disease 2019 Outbreak” issued by Governor Eric Holcomb on March 6, 2020 (the “Governor’s Declaration”) and IC 4-21.5-4-1, and as authorized by IC 16-28-1-10 and the September 18, 1991 resolution of the Executive Board of the Indiana State Department of Health (“ISDH”), the Indiana State Health Commissioner hereby **ORDERS** as follows:

Compliance by licensed Indiana comprehensive care facilities with portions of certain state rules is **WAIVED**, subject to the specific terms, conditions, and limits set forth below:

1. The requirement of 410 IAC 16.2-3.1-14(t) (“Personnel”) that a “physical examination shall be required for each employee of a facility within one (1) month prior to employment” is **waived**.
2. No other state rule or portion of a state rule is affected by this Emergency Order or the waiver granted herein.

[Complete signed order: THIRD EMERGENCY ORDER GRANTING TEMPORARY BLANKET WAIVER FOR COMPREHENSIVE CARE FACILITIES](#)

Direct Care Providers Use of Mask - Dr. Kristina Box

The Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) is working to protect Hoosiers during the COVID -19 pandemic. To help protect vulnerable seniors, ISDH recommends masks be worn by direct care provider in nursing homes. Dr. Kristina Box MD, State Health Commissioner, is providing the attached letter regarding:

- Direct Care providers should wear masks while in facility
- Why are we making this recommendation
- Limit resident contact to only direct care providers
- Conserving PPE
- EMResource
- Widespread Testing

[Dr. Kristina Box – Letter to Long Term Care Directors](#)