



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES  
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

TELEPHONE:

(860) 424-5841

FAX:

(860) 424-4960

TTY:

1-800-842-4524

EMAIL:

mike.gilbert@ct.gov

MICHAEL GILBERT  
Deputy Commissioner

March 1, 2021

To All Nursing Facility Providers:

Under Section 17b-340(a) of the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS), the Department has the authority to reimburse nursing facilities for extraordinary and unanticipated costs necessary to avoid an immediate negative impact on the health and safety of residents. Extraordinary circumstances are defined in federal regulations as circumstances beyond a provider's control including, but not limited to strikes, fires, earthquakes, floods, or similar unusual occurrences with substantial cost effects.

In recognition of the current nationwide public health emergency, the Department of Social Services will implement a temporary Medicaid rate increase effective for the period January 1, 2021 through March 31, 2021. The rate increase is being used to get funds to nursing home providers rapidly and, for that reason, the Department will not issue individual rate letters. Related, this process will not be subject to the re-hearing process under C.G.S. § 17b-238 (b) and, therefore, providers will have no need to file requests for rehearing or to file subsequent 90-day detailed items of aggrievement.

In recognition of the extraordinary costs related to the COVID-19 public health emergency, all Medicaid rates are being increased by five percent for the period January 1, 2021 to February 28, 2021 over the current rate in effect, and ten percent for the period March 1, 2021 to March 31, 2021, over the current rate in effect.. The additional reimbursement is to be applied towards:

- Compliance with Department of Public Health (DPH) standards regarding infection control, including, but not limited to, cohorting requirements and establishment of back-up testing partners;
- Performance of supplemental antigen testing;
- Provision of incentive payments to all direct care staff, including nursing staff, nursing staff pools and nurse aides, and, at the discretion of each home, incentive payments to indirect care staff, including in- house housekeeping, dietary, and laundry staff;
- Initiation of the process and submit performance on plans to eliminate 3- and 4-bed room arrangements;
- Use of compensation arrangements (e.g., shift incentive payments, staff retention incentive payments, and extended schedules) to incentivize direct care staff to work in only one facility;

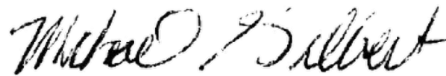
- Documentation of expenditures for personal protective equipment or other COVID-19 related costs;
- Increase in the hours of infection preventionists to ensure they are on-site full- time;
- Use of shift coaches to monitor infection control, and;
- Adherence to any requirements of DPH's vaccine implementation plan that are then in effect.

Current Department policies concerning unallowable costs and related-party reimbursement policies remain in effect. Providers that are designated by the Department of Public Health to be COVID-19 only facilities will receive the COVID-specific rate of \$600 for the care of COVID-19 positive residents. COVID-specific facilities are not eligible for the increase but will only receive the \$600 per diem COVID-specific rate.

Please see the attached list, by provider, of the revised rates in effect for January 1, 2021.

If there are any questions, please contact Nicole Godburn, Manager of Reimbursement and Certificate of Need, Division of Health Services.

Sincerely,



Michael Gilbert  
Deputy Commissioner

cc: K. McEvoy  
M. Dillon  
N. Godburn  
B. Bujwid  
N. Mazzatto  
M&S