

## **NOTICE OF INTENT**

### **Department of Health Bureau of Health Services Financing**

#### **Nursing Facilities Licensing Standards (LAC 48:I.9701 and 9943)**

The Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing proposes to amend LAC 48:I.9701 and 9943 as authorized by R.S. 36:254 and 40:2109. This proposed Rule is promulgated in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 et seq.

The Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing proposes to amend the provisions governing the licensing of nursing facilities in order to align reporting requirements for state licensed nursing facilities with national requirements and provide standardized information to assist with national surveillance on the status of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in all nursing facilities.

### **Title 48**

#### **PUBLIC HEALTH—GENERAL**

#### **Part I. General Administration**

#### **Subpart 3. Licensing and Certification**

#### **Chapter 97. Nursing Facilities**

#### **Subchapter A. General Provisions**

#### **§9701. Definitions**

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Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)—a communicable, contagious, and infectious disease/virus (more specifically, a coronavirus) identified as the cause of an outbreak of respiratory illness first detected in Wuhan, China. COVID-19 is a new disease, caused by a novel (or new) coronavirus that has not previously been seen in humans. Persons with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported—ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness.

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AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 40:2009.1-2116.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 42:1891 (November 2016), amended LR 46:

## **Chapter 99. Nursing Facilities**

### **Subchapter C. Infection Control and Sanitation**

#### **§9943. Infection Control Program**

A. - D. ...

E. Reportable diseases as expressed in the *LAC Title 51, Public Health—Sanitary Code* shall be reported to the local parish health unit of OPH and other agencies as required by state and/or federal laws, statutes, and ordinances.

F. Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Reporting. The facility, in addition to any state and/or local reporting,

shall:

1. electronically report information about COVID-19 in the standardized format, and at the frequency, required by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); and

2. inform residents, their representatives, and families of those residing in facilities, of the conditions of residents in the facility, within the timeframe and requirements as specified by CMS regulations and CDC reporting guidelines.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 40:2009.1-2116.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 42:1930 (November 2016), amended LR 46:

#### **Family Impact Statement**

In compliance with Act 1183 of the 1999 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, the impact of this proposed Rule on the family has been considered. It is anticipated that this proposed Rule will have no impact on family functioning, stability and autonomy as described in R.S. 49:972.

#### **Poverty Impact Statement**

In compliance with Act 854 of the 2012 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, the poverty impact of this proposed Rule has been considered. It is anticipated that this proposed

Rule will have no impact on child, individual, or family poverty in relation to individual or community asset development as described in R.S. 49:973.

#### **Small Business Analysis**

In compliance with Act 820 of the 2008 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, the economic impact of this proposed Rule on small businesses has been considered. It is anticipated that this proposed Rule will have no impact on small businesses, as described in R.S. 49:965.2 et seq.

#### **Provider Impact Statement**

In compliance with House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 170 of the 2014 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, the provider impact of this proposed Rule has been considered. It is anticipated that this proposed Rule will have no impact on the staffing level requirements or qualifications required to provide the same level of service, no direct or indirect cost to the provider to provide the same level of service, and will have no impact on the provider's ability to provide the same level of service as described in HCR 170.

#### **Public Comments**

Interested persons may submit written comments to Cecile Castello, Health Standards Section, P.O. Box 3767, Baton Rouge, LA 70821. Ms. Castello is responsible for responding to inquiries regarding this proposed Rule. The deadline for

submitting written comments is at 4:30 p.m. on August 29, 2020.

Interested persons may submit a written request to conduct a public hearing by U.S. mail to the Office of the Secretary ATTN: LDH Rulemaking Coordinator, Post Office Box 629, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-0629; however, such request must be received no later than 4:30 p.m. on August 10, 2020. If the criteria set forth in R.S. 49:953(A)(2)(a) are satisfied, LDH will conduct a public hearing at 9:30 a.m. on August 27, 2020 in Room 118 of the Bienville Building, which is located at 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA. To confirm whether or not a public hearing will be held, interested persons should first call Allen Enger at (225) 342-1342 after August 10, 2020. If a public hearing is to be held, all interested persons are invited to attend and present data, views, comments, or arguments, orally or in writing. In the event of a hearing, parking is available to the public in the Galvez Parking Garage, which is located between North Sixth and North Fifth/North and Main Streets (cater-corner from the Bienville Building). Validated parking for the Galvez Garage may be available to public hearing attendees when the parking ticket is presented to LDH staff at the hearing.

Dr. Courtney N. Phillips

Secretary