

# PPE Competency – Essential to Infection Control and Prevention

## What you need to know:

Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) circulates federal regulations establishing Conditions of Participation (CoP) for Long-Term Care Facilities (LTCF) wishing to benefit from business with these government payers. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, particular attention must be afforded to the Federal Regulatory Group §483.80 (Infection Control) and the corresponding Nursing Home Survey F-tag 880 that serves to enforce this regulation. This F-tag's standard states a facility will "establish and maintain an infection prevention and control program designed to provide a safe, sanitary and comfortable environment and to help prevent the development and transmission of communicable diseases and infections." Appropriate utilization of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), evidenced by recorded training and competency documentation, is essential to upholding this regulatory standard. This applies both in normal times and especially amidst this viral outbreak prompting **COVID-19 focused surveys**.

## PharMerica has developed the following materials to assist you:

### Policy & Procedures (P&P)

PharMerica is providing a P&P that our partner facilities can follow to ensure compliance with these normal regulatory standards during this abnormal infectious outbreak. The COVID-19 Infection Control and Prevention (ICP) Policies and Procedures is sourced by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations, evaluated against CMS COVID-19 focused survey material, and specified to the LTC setting per the Post-Acute Long-Term Care (PALTC) guidance offered by AMDA. Judicious policy updates are provided as pandemic conditions change and information and recommendations are disseminated. The complete P&P, including supplemental materials facility personnel may use, can be found on ViewMasterRx.

### Competency Resource Material

PharMerica is providing both print and audio/visual educational materials regarding PPE and the varying levels of precautions for facility staff training . These resources, including those sourced directly by the CDC and Association for Professionals in Infection Control (APIC), are contemporary and demonstrate accepted best practices.

Print Resources: <https://pharmerica.com/assets-toolkits>

Audio/Visual Resources: <https://youtu.be/of73FN086E8> & <https://youtu.be/PQxOc13DxvQ>

### Competency Checklist

PharMerica is proud to provide its partner facilities with a tool to guide facility leadership in validating their staff's competency with this essential ICP measure. LTCFs evidence a disproportionately high mortality rate among COVID-19 diagnosed patients, and considering the communal living environment and potentially high acuity level among residents, it is imperative that all staff be proficient in utilizing PPE to mitigate the facility's infectious risk. Therefore, both a COVID-19 specific competency (provided for use during this outbreak) and a generalized tool for annual re-evaluation are provided.