

Sent via e-mail to: privera@pa.gov

June 8, 2020

The Honorable Pedro A. Rivera
Secretary of the Department of Education
10th Floor, Harrisstown 2
Harrisburg, PA 17126-0333

Dear Secretary Rivera:

LeadingAge PA, the Healthcare Council of Western Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Health Care Association, and the Pennsylvania Coalition of Affiliated Healthcare & Living Communities are trade associations representing the majority of nursing facilities in the Commonwealth.

During the COVID-19 emergency, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services issued a blanket waiver allowing nursing facilities to employ as nurse aides staff who do not meet the Nurse Aide Training and Competency Evaluation Program (NATCEP) requirements. The facility must ensure that these nurse aides demonstrate competency in skills and techniques necessary to care for residents' needs, as identified through resident assessments and described in the plan of care.

The Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) issued guidance allowing staff to work as nurse aides following completion of an abbreviated training course. The DOH guidance requires that the facility provide orientation to the facility, its policies, the position and duties, as well as training on the prevention and reporting of resident abuse.

Throughout the emergency, these nurse aides have demonstrated competency and heroically provided essential services to nursing home residents. Once the emergency ends, we respectfully request a waiver of the NATCEP training and testing requirements for staff working under the DOH's emergency exemption as nurse aides if they have worked in this capacity for at least one month during the emergency. For those who have worked less than one month, we request that the training requirement be waived.

The above named organizations look forward to working with you on this important issue. If you have any questions or want to discuss our request, please contact [Anne Henry](#).

Sincerely,



Adam Marles
President & CEO
LeadingAge PA



A.J. Harper
President
HCWP



Zach Shamberg
President & CEO
PHCA



Chase Cannon
Executive Director
PACAH

cc: Pam Sherts, Psherts@pa.gov
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