

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) COVID-19 NHSN reporting requirements for nursing homes became effective on May 8, 2020. Data submitted to NHSN are shared with CMS on a weekly basis, enabling the agency to evaluate requirement compliance and publicly publish facility-level information. [CMS memo QSO-20-29-NH](#) provides additional information for nursing homes to meet COVID-19 reporting requirements.

Below you will find answers to questions you may have concerning your facility's NHSN data that were subsequently publicly published by CMS. Detailed information about how CMS processed NHSN data should be directed to <https://data.cms.gov/Covid19-nursing-home-data> or [NH\\_COVID\\_Data@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:NH_COVID_Data@cms.hhs.gov).

### Reporting Timelines:

#### **1. When does CDC send my data to Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)?**

COVID-19 data reported to NHSN by CMS-certified long-term care facilities (skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) and/or nursing facilities (NFs), also known as nursing homes) are captured from the system shortly after midnight EST every Monday morning and subsequently sent to CMS. All data that had been reported to NHSN by the CMS deadline of 11:59 p.m. on Sunday evening are shared with CMS and are identified by the unique CMS Certification Number (CCN).

### Comparison of CMS and NHSN Data:

#### **2. Where are the data I submitted to NHSN this week?**

The COVID-19 data submitted to NHSN this week is viewable in the NHSN online application. These data will be provided to CMS on Monday morning after the 11:59 p.m. Sunday deadline. CMS will process these data in preparation for the weekly update of their nursing home COVID-19 webpage. Therefore, there will be a delay (approximately 11 days) in viewing this week's data on CMS webpages.

Please ensure that the CCN used in the NHSN application matches the CCN assigned to the facility by CMS. If they do not match, your facility's data may not be included in data posted by CMS.

If your facility's data do not appear on the CMS website, please contact CMS at [NH\\_COVID\\_Data@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:NH_COVID_Data@cms.hhs.gov).

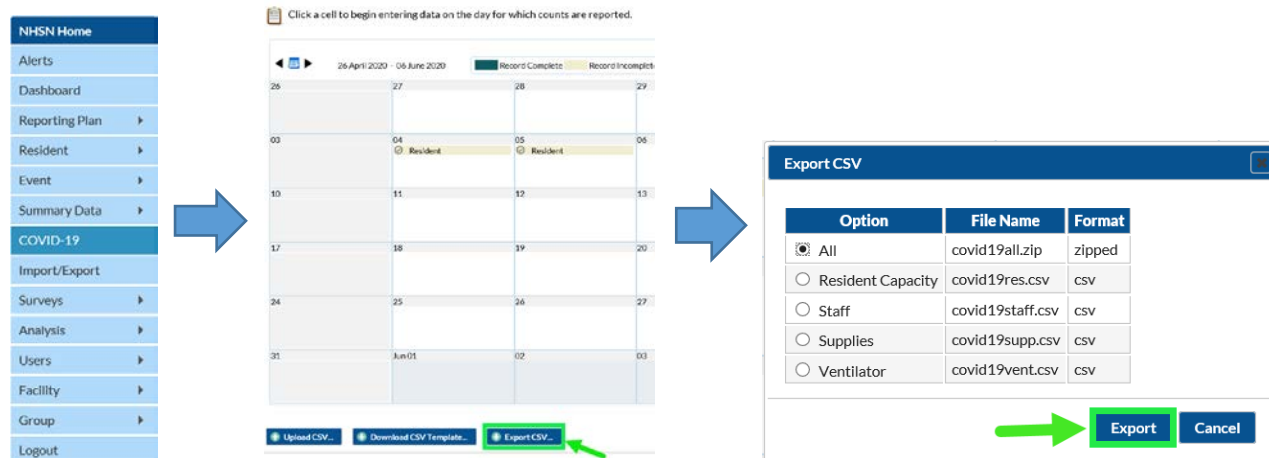
#### **3. How can we compare our data in NHSN with what is presented on the CMS website?**

To verify that your facility data on the CMS website is correct, login into NHSN and export your COVID-19 module data from NHSN. For more information on exporting your COVID-19 module data (please [How to export COVID-19 module data](#) below). Once you export your data, compare the data from NHSN to the CMS webpage by matching the time period for which the data were posted by CMS. Viewing the data by the correct time period is essential, since data on the NHSN online application are current and there is an approximate 11-day delay on the CMS website.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS COVID-19 DATA PUBLISHED BY THE CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES

### How to export COVID-19 module data

Login to NHSN and click on COVID-19. Scroll to the bottom of the calendar bar and click on “Export CSV”. Click on the button to select the one or more pathways to export then click on “Export”.



The screenshot shows the NHSN COVID-19 data entry interface. On the left is a navigation menu with 'COVID-19' selected. The main area is a calendar grid for April 2020. At the bottom of the calendar, there are three buttons: 'Upload CSV...', 'Download CSV Template...', and 'Export CSV...'. A green arrow points to the 'Export CSV...' button. To the right, the 'Export CSV' dialog box is open, showing a table of options to export:

Option	File Name	Format
<input checked="" type="radio"/> All	covid19all.zip	zipped
<input type="radio"/> Resident Capacity	covid19res.csv	csv
<input type="radio"/> Staff	covid19staff.csv	csv
<input type="radio"/> Supplies	covid19supp.csv	csv
<input type="radio"/> Ventilator	covid19vent.csv	csv

At the bottom of the dialog box, there are 'Export' and 'Cancel' buttons. A green arrow points to the 'Export' button.

**4. Are the data presented on the CMS website cumulative; and if so, for what date range?**

CMS posts both cumulative and weekly data submitted by nursing homes. The data is available [here](#), and the date the data is updated is posted in the upper right hand corner of the page. Questions regarding that data should be directed to CMS at [NH\\_COVID\\_Data@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:NH_COVID_Data@cms.hhs.gov).

**5. My data on CMS’ website are incorrect. How do I fix data submission errors?**

Facilities may correct their data in the NHSN COVID-19 module at any time by simply accessing the applicable calendar day, and then replacing the incorrect data with correct data. You must then choose save before exiting the screen to retain your changes. The updated data will be sent to CMS on the following Monday in the next NHSN data submission. Please keep in mind the 11-day delay referenced in Question 3.

**6. If I correct my data in NHSN, will CMS receive the corrections?**

Yes. However, the updated data will not be sent to CMS until the following Monday in the next data submission to CMS. Please keep in mind the 11-day delay referenced above in Question 3.



### Initial Reporting to NHSN:

**7. When we begin submitting data to the COVID-19 Module, do we need to enter retrospective data; and if so, how far back?**

NHSN encourages facilities to enter data beginning from May 1, 2020. When entering data for a calendar day on or after May 1, 2020, enter the counts for that question that were or have been newly identified that week.

CMS does not require facilities to report COVID-19 data retrospectively. However, NHSN provides facilities with the option to enter total data counts for the period of January 1- April 30, 2020. To do so, select any single calendar day in 2020 prior to May 1 on which to report. If these data are not available at the time of data entry, leave blank and revise counts later.

Please review the table of instructions for each COVID-19 Pathway [here](#).

### Miscellaneous:

**8. How will CMS enforce the submission of this data?**

Information about CMS' requirements for reporting, and actions for noncompliance can be found [here](#).

Questions regarding CMS' enforcement of the new COVID-19 nursing home reporting requirement should be directed to [DNH\\_Enforcement@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:DNH_Enforcement@cms.hhs.gov) .

**9. My facility's data is being submitted to NHSN by another entity, such as the state health department. The data on CMS website does not seem correct. How can I verify the data was submitted to NHSN?**

For more information on verifying your COVID-19 LTC publicly reported NHSN data, please see answer to Question 3. Also, please contact the entity submitting your data to investigate any discrepancies.