



# Nurse Aide Training Program and Test Site Informational Call

Nurse Aide Registry  
June 12, 2023

# Tennessees Warning

- **The Minnesota Department of Health is hosting this informational call to inform nurse aide training programs and testing sites of processes and updates.**
- **Your comments, questions and image, which may be private data, may be visible during this event.** You are not required to provide this data, and there are no consequences for declining to do so.
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- Attendees are muted. During the Q&A portion, please raise your hand and we will unmute you.
- You can also submit comments or questions in the chat feature.

- CMS 1135 Waiver ended May 11, 2023
- Upcoming test advisory panel (TAP) for skills test
- Implementation of skills
  - Mouth Care-Brushing a Resident's Teeth
  - Feeding a Dependent Resident
  - Modified Bed Bath- Face and One Arm, Hand and Underarm
- Nurse aide registry modernization project update
- DHS nurse aide scholarship program

# CMS 1135 Waiver



# CMS 1135 Waiver End May 11, 2023

- On October 5, 2022, CMS granted Minnesota an extension to the 1135 Waiver
- Waiver expired as the PHE ended May 11, 2023, per Biden administration
- Nurse aides who wish to continue working after the waiver expiration must pass the nurse aide exam by September 10, 2023

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**Center for Clinical Standards and Quality/Quality, Safety & Oversight Group**

**Ref: QSO-23-13-ALL**

**DATE:** May 01, 2023

**TO:** State Survey Agency Directors

**FROM:** Directors, Quality, Safety & Oversight Group (QSOG) and Survey & Operations Group (SOG)

**SUBJECT:** Guidance for the Expiration of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE)

**Memorandum Summary**

- Social Security Act Section 1135 emergency waivers for health care providers will terminate with the end of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) on May 11, 2023.
- Certain regulations or other policies included in Interim Final Rules with Comments (IFCs) will be modified with the ending the PHE. Certain policies, such as the Acute Hospital at Home initiative and telehealth flexibilities have been extended by Congress through December 31, 2024.
- Long Term Care and Acute and Continuing Care providers are expected to be in compliance with the requirements according to the timeframes listed below.

# Waiver End Scenarios

Q: Employee hired January 2023. Went on LOA prior to May 11, 2023, will return on Sept 15. Has completed NATCEP, has not yet tested. How long will the employee have to get on the registry?

A: If the employee was hired during the waiver, they have until 9/10/23 to test and become active on the registry.

Q: Employee is hired after Sept 11, and completes NATCEP, after 2 months takes LOA. Upon returning to work how long do they have to get on the registry?

A: The PHE ended 5/11/23. Anyone hired after this date will fall under the “4 month rule.” The process is returning to “Pre-Covid” guidelines. Refer to pages 8 and 9 of the [Federal Nurse Aide Training and Competency Evaluation Program Resource \(state.mn.us\)](https://www.state.mn.us/health/natcep/)



# Skills Test Advisory Panel (TAP)



# Skills Test Advisory Panel Planned

- Gov Delivery sent out seeking volunteers to serve on the Skills TAP
- Planned for Wednesday, July 19, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Central Standard Time
- A total of 10-12 volunteers and four alternates will be selected
- MDH will seek to ensure representation from a variety of professional experts, including representation from diverse communities

# Follow up Questions from May NAR Call



# Questions & Answers from May Call

Q: Output states within +/- 30 ml but skills video states +/- 25 ml. Which is correct?

A: Output is measured for 2 Headmaster skills- ASSIST RESIDENT WITH THE USE OF A BEDPAN, MEASURE AND RECORD URINE OUTPUT WITH HAND WASHING and BAG, MEASURE AND RECORD URINE OUTPUT AND REMOVE PPE WITH HAND WASHING.

For both skills the correct answer is 25 ml's. The step states:

Candidate's recorded measurement is within 25ml's of RN Test Observer's reading.

# Questions from May Call

Q: Is it acceptable to wash 4 times using different corners of washcloth, not in a triangle? Students are having difficulty holding washcloth in triangle.

A: Headmaster skills requiring a clean portion of the washcloth for each stroke for 3 skills- MODIFIED BED BATH –FACE AND ONE ARM, HAND AND UNDERARM, PERINEAL CARE FOR A FEMALE RESIDENT WITH HAND WASHING and CATHETER CARE FOR A FEMALE RESIDENT WITH HAND WASHING.

Candidates can fold the washcloth as they choose as long as a clean portion is used for each stroke. The skill does not specify how the washcloth must be folded.

# Questions from May Call

Q: Will there be a time where the knowledge test could be done in Spanish. I am seeing more students who speak English but have difficulty with the written test or oral test by the way the questions are asked.

A: The state's contract with Headmaster specifies the knowledge exam is only completed in English. Many residents and staff speak English. It is a safety factor for staff and residents to communicate clearly.

# Questions from May Call

Q: When a candidate has passed their skills exam but is unable to pass the knowledge test after the 4th attempt, what is the rationale behind the candidate having to retake both knowledge and skills exam?

A: The state is allowed to set limits on the number of exams taken within a 24-month period to be placed on the registry. If a candidate is unable to pass the knowledge exam after 4 attempts, completion of a training program may increase comprehension of the material. A challenge candidate who is unable to pass the knowledge and skills exam must also complete a training program before testing again.

Q: When the pilot ends how do we go about becoming an in facility testing facility?

A: The in-facility pilot is completed. MDH has been working with pilot sites, stake holders regarding the next steps. Please watch for MDH communications and website updates of how to become a test site this summer.

# May Call Question: Bedpan Skill

Q: Candidates are washing resident's hands without gloves on the bedpan skill after the resident has wiped themselves. Shouldn't this be done with gloved hands per standard precautions as they are likely to come in contact with body fluids?

A: This was reviewed at the initial skills TAP but will be taken into consideration during the upcoming TAP session this summer. Skills are written to address minimal safe standards. Nurse aides are to follow standards of practice for infection control guidelines when working with bodily fluids.



# May Call Question-Position on Side in Bed

Q: With previous test vendor, candidates had to put up the side rail on the side of the bed they turned the resident toward. With Headmaster, the RN test observer is to stand on the side of the bed for safety. The candidate must move the resident over in bed in 3 separate motions. This is being done as a one person assist. Why does the RN test observer stand on the bedside if this is a one person assist?

# Answer- Position on Side in Bed

A: Headmaster requests the RN Observer to stand on the side of the bed the resident is positioned toward as an additional safety measure for the actor in the bed. As in real life scenarios, many LTC beds do not have side rails.

# Mock Skills





- Mouth Care- Brushing Resident's Teeth
- Feeding a Dependent Resident
- Modified Bed Bath –Face and One Arm, Hand and Underarm

# Mouth Care - Brushing Resident's Teeth



## MOUTH CARE – BRUSHING RESIDENT’S TEETH

**USING COVID PRECAUTIONS: THIS TASK IS NOT BEING TESTED AT THIS TIME.**

	Perform hand hygiene. a. Cover all surfaces of hands with hand sanitizer. b. Rub hands together until hands are completely dry.	
	Explain the procedure to the resident. (Speak clearly, directly, maintaining face-to-face contact whenever possible.)	
	Provide for privacy.	
	Drape resident's chest with a towel to prevent soiling.	
	Put on gloves BEFORE cleaning resident’s mouth.	
	Wet toothbrush and apply a small amount of toothpaste.	
	Gently brush the inner surfaces of resident’s upper and lower teeth.	
	Gently brush the outer surfaces of resident’s upper and lower teeth.	
	Gently brush the chewing surfaces of resident’s upper and lower teeth.	
	Gently brush the resident's tongue.	
	Assist the resident in rinsing mouth.	
	Wipe resident's mouth.	
	Remove soiled linen.	
	Place soiled linen in the designated laundry hamper.	
	Empty container. (Container may be an emesis basin or a disposable	




# Feeding a Dependent Resident





## FEEDING A DEPENDENT RESIDENT

**USING COVID PRECAUTIONS: THIS TASK IS NOT BEING TESTED AT THIS TIME.**

	Perform hand hygiene. a. Cover all surfaces of hands with hand sanitizer. b. Rub hands together until hands are completely dry.	
	Explain the procedure to the resident. (Speak clearly, directly, maintaining face-to-face contact whenever possible.)	
	Ask resident to state name and verify name matches the name on the diet card.	
	<b>Position the resident in an upright, sitting position BEFORE feeding. At least 75-90 degrees.</b>	
	Offer napkin, clothing protector, or towel to protect clothing from soiling.	
	Provide hand hygiene for the resident BEFORE feeding. <i>(Candidate may use a disposable wipe and dispose of in trash can –or- wash resident’s hands with soap and a wet washcloth –or- they may rub hand sanitizer over all surfaces of the resident’s hands until dry.)</i>	
	Ensure resident's hands are dry BEFORE feeding. <i>(If a wet washcloth with soap was used, the candidate will need to dry the resident’s hands. If a disposable wipe or hand sanitizer was used, must make sure hands are dry.)</i>	
	Place soiled linen in designated laundry hamper, or dispose in	



# Additional Key Steps

	Place soiled linen in designated laundry hamper, or dispose in appropriate container, if used.	
	Sit in a chair, facing the resident, while feeding the resident.	
	Describe the food and fluids being offered to the resident.	
	Offer each fluid frequently.	
	Offer small amounts of food at a reasonable rate.	
	Allow resident time to chew and swallow.	
	Wipe resident's hands and mouth AFTER the feeding demonstration.	
	Remove clothing protector or napkin and place in appropriate container, if used.	
	Leave resident sitting upright in bed with the head of the bed set up to at least 75-90 degrees.	
	Record intake as a percentage of total solid food eaten on the previously signed recording form.	
	<b>Candidate's calculation must be within 25 percentage points of the RN Test Observer's.</b>	
	Record estimated intake as the sum total fluid consumed in ml's on the previously signed recording form.	
	<b>Candidate's calculation must be within 30ml's of the RN Test Observer's.</b>	

# Modified Bed Bath—Face and One Arm, Hand and Underarm



## MODIFIED BED BATH –FACE AND ONE ARM, HAND AND UNDERARM

*Using COVID precautions – this task will be performed on a manikin.*

Perform hand hygiene. a. Cover all surfaces of hands with hand sanitizer. b. Rub hands together until hands are completely dry.	
Explain the procedure to the resident/manikin. (Speak clearly, directly, maintaining face-to-face contact whenever possible.)	
Provide for privacy.	
Raise bed height.	
Cover resident/manikin with a bath blanket.	
Remove remaining top covers to bottom of bed or place aside.	
Remove resident/manikin's gown without exposing resident/manikin and place soiled gown in designated laundry hamper.	
Fill basin with comfortably warm water.	
Put on gloves BEFORE washing resident.	
<b>Beginning with eyes, wash eyes WITHOUT SOAP using a clean portion of the washcloth for each stroke, washing inner aspect to outer aspect.</b>	
Wash face WITHOUT SOAP.	
Pats dry face.	
Place towel under arm, exposing one arm.	



# NAR Modernization Project



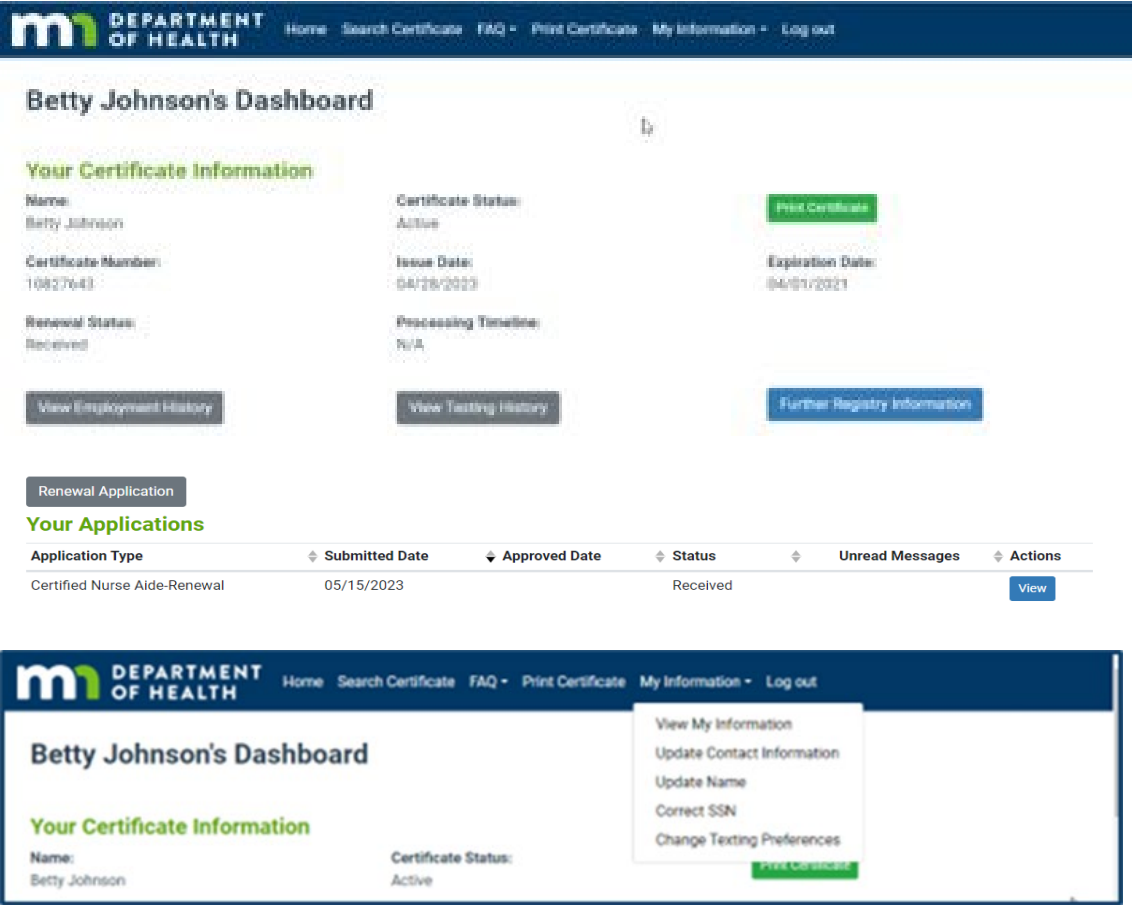


# New & Improved Minnesota Nurse Aide Registry



- MDH is modernizing the Nurse Aide Registry and processes
- All notices and communications from MDH will be sent through email and text
- The new application and processes will save MDH resources

# What can Nurse Aides do?



- Update contact information, including name, address, phone, and email
- View application status and history

# What can Nurse Aides do?



- Print nurse aide certificate

# What can Nurse Aides do?

The screenshot shows the 'Nurse Aide Renewal Application' page on the Minnesota Department of Health website. The page is divided into three steps: Personal, Employment, and Information. The 'Personal' step is active and highlighted with a blue circle containing the number '1'. Below the step indicators, there is a form titled 'Personal Information'. The form contains several fields: 'Last Name' (Johnson), 'First Name' (Betty), 'Middle Name' (Anne), 'Social Security Number' (098-76-5432), and 'Date of Birth' (10/20/2001). There are two buttons: 'Update Name' and 'Shown SSN is Incorrect'. Below these fields are sections for 'Street Address' (444 4th ave s), 'City' (minneapolis), 'State' (Minnesota), and 'ZIP' (55406). At the bottom, there are fields for 'Phone Number' ((112)233-4458) and 'Email Address' (test@test.edu). A 'Next' button is located at the bottom right of the form.

- Submit renewal electronically and communicate directly with MDH staff within the application



# What can Nurse Aides do?

The screenshot shows the 'Nurse Aide Interstate Endorsement Application' form, specifically the 'Personal Information' section. The form is part of a four-step process: 1. Personal, 2. Endorsement, 3. Attachments, and 4. Affirmation. The 'Personal Information' section includes the following fields:

- First Name (required)
- Middle Name
- Last Name (required)
- Date of Birth (required, format mm/dd/yyyy)
- Social Security Number (required)
- Phone (required)
- Email (required)
- Texting Preferences (required, dropdown menu with option: - Please select an option -)
- Address section including:
  - Street Address (required)
  - City (required)
  - State (required, dropdown menu with option: - Please select an option -)
  - ZIP (required)

A 'Next' button is located at the bottom right of the form.

- Submit an Interstate Endorsement application electronically



- Nurse Aides will be added to the registry via Headmaster data transfer
- Nurse Aides may set up their account after MDH notifies them they are on the registry

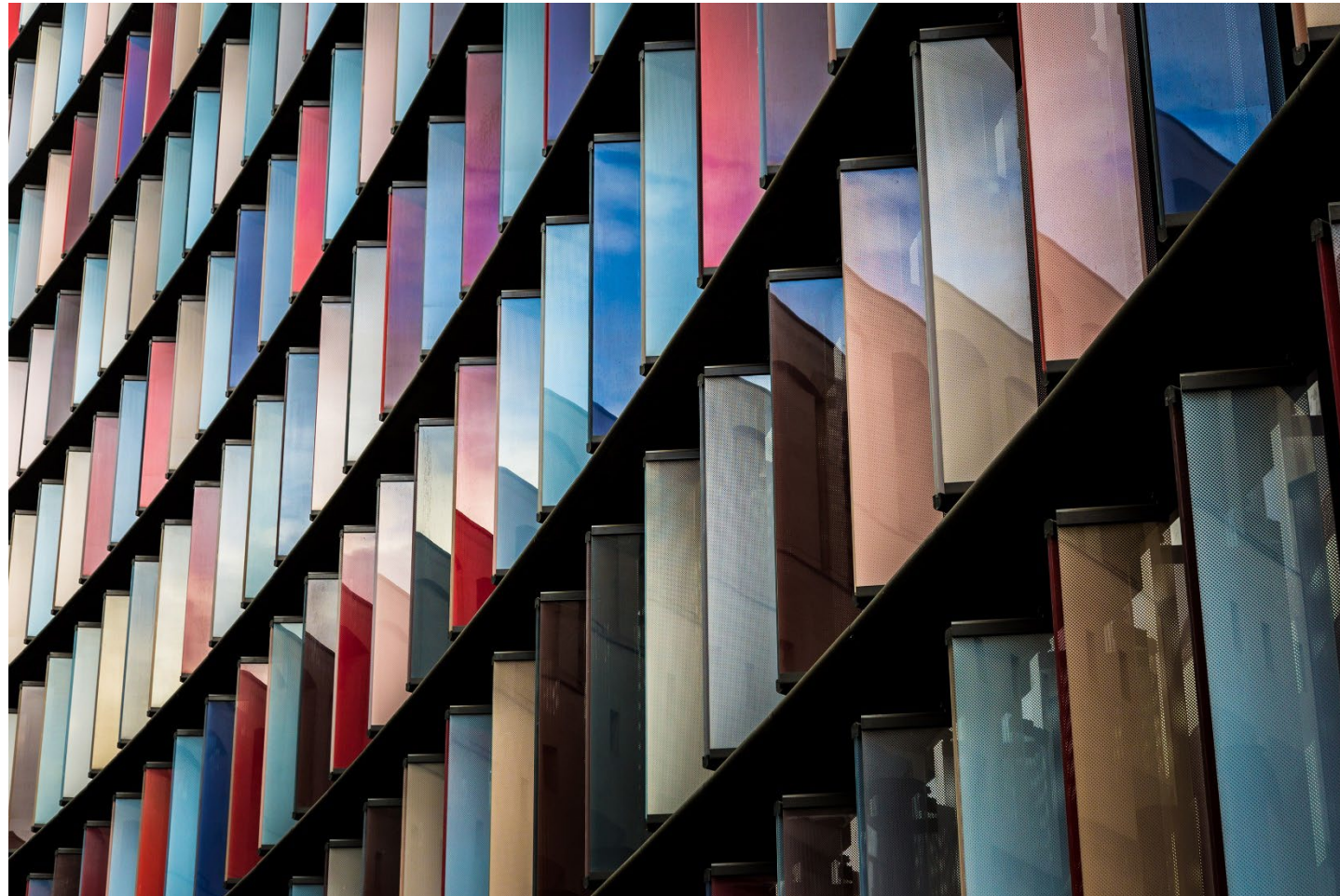
# How Training and Testing Programs Can Help



- Programs encourage candidates to verify accuracy of name, date of birth, SSN, and email
- Remind the candidates to wait to create their account until they hear from MDH
- **Remind candidates they may update their employer information after they create their account**



# DHS Resources



- Do facilities need to reimburse CNAs for expenses immediately upon hire or do they have up to 90 days?
- Is there funding available for facilities to reimburse CNAs for transportation for class, a pair of shoes and a uniform?

# Resources Available





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## NURSING ASSISTANT REGISTRY

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# Nursing Assistant Registry

The Nursing Assistant Registry lists nursing assistants who have met Minnesota training and/or testing standards to work in nursing homes and certified boarding care homes. The registry also has information about nursing assistants who have substantiated findings of abuse, neglect, and theft.

This is an online registry. Nursing assistants, employers, and others can check the registry





# Available to Training and Testing Programs

- NAR home page under employer and training program resources
- Use as reference tool

[Federal Nurse Aide Training and Competency Evaluation Program Resource \(state.mn.us\)](#)

[NATCEP Survey Worksheet \(state.mn.us\)](#)

[Nurse Aide Competency Test Site Survey Form \(state.mn.us\)](#)



- ✓ 1135 waiver, end of PHE 5/11/23
- ✓ TAP
- ✓ Update of skills
  - ✓ Feeding, mouth care and bed bath
- ✓ NAR modernization project
- ✓ DHS nurse aide scholarship program



- Next scheduled call is August 14
- Check the [NAR Calls website](#) for call details and GovDelivery

# Questions?



# Program Contact Information

Training Program Questions:

[Health.NAR.coord@state.mn.us](mailto:Health.NAR.coord@state.mn.us)

Nursing Assistant Registry Questions:

[Health.FPC-NAR@state.mn.us](mailto:Health.FPC-NAR@state.mn.us)

NAR Home Page:

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/nar>

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