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Michael A. Ceballos  
Director

Mark Gordon  
Governor

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October 1, 2020

Ref.: AH-2020-038


**State Health Officer's Statewide Instructions to  
Skilled Nursing Facilities and Assisted Living Facilities**

During a public health emergency, any healthcare provider, including a volunteer, or other person, including a business entity, who in good faith follows the instructions of the State Health Officer in responding to the public health emergency is immune from any liability arising from complying with the State Health Officer's instructions. *See* Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 35-4-114(a). This immunity does not apply, however, to acts or omissions constituting gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct. *See id.* Accordingly, during the public health emergency caused by COVID-19, declared a public health emergency by Governor Mark Gordon on March 13, 2020, I, Alexia Harrist, MD, PhD, the State Health Officer, hereby issue the following statewide instructions to skilled nursing facilities and assisted living facilities. These instructions are effective immediately and shall remain in effect until modified or revoked by myself or until the Governor has declared that the public health emergency has ended pursuant to Wyoming Statute § 35-4-115(a)(i).

**1. Statewide Instructions to Skilled Nursing Facilities and Assisted Living Facilities**

- a) In order to continue to protect vulnerable residents and facility staff from contracting COVID-19, I instruct skilled nursing facilities and assisted living facilities in Wyoming to follow the Wyoming Department of Health guidance, dated October 1, 2020, regarding policies for visitation, symptom screening, infection control practices, communal dining and activities, barbering and cosmetology services, and COVID-19 testing.
- b) Skilled nursing facilities and assisted living facilities that have questions about easing restrictions put in place to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 should consult with their local/county public health office or with the Wyoming Department of Health.

Dated this 1<sup>st</sup> day of October, 2020.

  
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Alexia Harrist, M.D., Ph.D.  
Wyoming State Health Officer