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ANATP/BNATP Monthly Update June 2023

1. The Covid vaccination mandate for health care workers will no longer be in effect in the coming months, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) said via the draft of a final rule. CMS said that the document detailing the final rule on the Covid vaccine mandate is scheduled to be published in the Federal Register on June 5 and will be available online. The regulations in the final rule will go into effect 60 days after this publication. In other words, unless CMS changes its strategy, LTC facilities will no longer be mandated to have the COVID vaccine after August 5, 2023. Hopefully this will ease some of the pressures and tensions with your clinical partners.
2. Monitoring Visits: There is a positive trend since the presentation given by Beth and Tabitha at the annual conference. Feedback so far has been that if the “compliance book” kept at the theory site is in order and readily available that the inspection is a breeze.
3. If you’re concerned about a compliance issue or confused about administrative rules, please do not hesitate to reach out with questions or clarifications. Carl Sagan, in his writings said: “There are naïve questions, tedious questions, ill-phrased questions ... but every question is a cry to understand. There is no such thing as a dumb question.”
4. Master Schedules: The newest version of the master schedule and updated master schedule instructions are online now. Note that I can only perform a quick review of pages one and two of the schedules due to the volume of schedules received annually (3000+ including revisions). If there are other details missed, they will be brought to your attention during the monitoring visits. You will receive acknowledgment of receipt of the schedule. Any issues noticed initially will be brought to your attention.
5. Master Schedule format: Follow the master schedule instructions **to the letter**. Do not use anything but Adobe to create your schedules. Make sure you download the schedule each time you need to create a new one. If there are programming or other errors discovered, these will be corrected, and an updated schedule will be uploaded. If you do not have the most recent schedule, it may cause rejection of your schedule. Use the envelope icon on page one to send your schedule. It formats the schedule correctly and will open (or ask to open) your default email. It



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- will address it automatically to dph.bnatp@illinois.gov. This doesn't work for some proprietary email systems, but it works for most.
6. Please do not email my regular state email (ross.carey-walden@illinois.gov) and cc the secondary email (dph.bnatp@illinois.gov). I monitor both email boxes. When you send to both, it can create confusion. Due to the volume of email I receive daily (300+), it creates duplication. I many not recognize that I responded to an email sent to one inbox and will possibly respond again to the same email in another inbox. No one else has access to these emails, so I am the only one who will read them.

As always, do not hesitate to call or email with questions.

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