Despite repeated calls for help, nursing homes did not receive resources or priority for months. Even then, the high amount of spread in surrounding communities made it impossible for nursing homes to prevent the virus from entering their facilities. This timeline identifies major regulatory, policy and resource supports skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) received during the pandemic, as compared to the timing of cases and deaths.

The federal government began collecting and reporting nursing home cases and deaths in May 2020. Since the implementation of the public health emergency, CMS & CDC combined have released 55 (or on average at least one per week) major new requirements or guidance in areas of infection control, testing and PPE use. This does not count minor guidance updates or modifications nor payment changes.

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