



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

ROY COOPER • Governor
MANDY COHEN, MD, MPH • Secretary
MARK T. BENTON • Assistant Secretary for Public Health
Division of Public Health

MEMORANDUM

March 13, 2020

TO: Registered Environmental Health Specialists, Supervisors, and Directors
FROM: Larry D. Michael, REHS, MPH
State Environmental Health Director
SUBJECT: Guidance for Environmental Health Inspections to Control and Prevent COVID-19

The purpose of this memo is to provide recommendations to local health departments about conducting inspections during the current COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, this guidance pertains to inspections at facilities with Highly Susceptible Populations (HSP). First and foremost, please be available and prepared to assist with the COVID-19 response as needed within your organization and observe CDC and NCDHHS guidance to keep yourself and your family safe in any setting.

Currently, the Section recommends the following approach for conducting inspections at facilities with HSPs to help control COVID-19 and protect occupants:

- To help protect HSPs, consider postponing inspections to facilities with HSPs, such as child care centers, nursing homes, and similar institutions to another time within the applicable required inspection frequency period.
- Contact facilities with HSPs to ensure they have appropriate environmental cleaning and disinfection resources to help control COVID-19 and inquire if assistance is needed.
- Complaints regarding HSP facilities should be investigated immediately.
- If entering a nursing home or similar institutional facility, be prepared to adhere to any requests from the facility administrator, which may include screening and wearing appropriate Personal Protective Equipment.

Other inspections should continue as usual while observing CDC and NCDHHS recommendations related to protecting yourself and others from COVID-19 as you would in any location.

Finally, please note that this situation is evolving rapidly, and guidance is subject to change.

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The following websites should be used for guidance:

NCDHHS COVID-19 Website

<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/public-health/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-response-north-carolina>

Centers for Disease Control COVID-19 Website

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/>

Resources to Protect Yourself and Your Family

<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/public-health/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-response-north-carolina/individuals-families>

For questions or additional information, please contact Veronica Bryant, Emergency Response and Outbreak Coordinator, at veronica.bryant@dhhs.nc.gov or by phone at 919-218-6943, or you may contact me at larry.michael@dhhs.nc.gov or 919-707-5855.