

FAQ for ISDH/NG Deployment

Guiding Principles for Soldier Duties in the facilities:

1. Offload non-clinical tasks from CLINICAL staff members
2. Decrease or reduce spread of COVID19 facility

Additionally, guard members will NOT be entering COVID designated areas in the facility or participating in direct resident interaction.

Job Duty Questions

Q: Can the NG deliver room trays?

A: Guard Members are able to deliver meal trays to hallways outside of the rooms IF this task is normally handled by clinical staff, and permits the clinical staff to perform direct clinical care. Guard Members are to remain in the "cold zone" hallways.

Q: Are they able to help with administrative tasks in dietary, i.e. ordering, updating menus?

A: Not at this time.

Q: Since they can help with PPE stocking and tracking, can they help put supplies away in central supply?

A: Yes, this can help offload the clinical team and help the facility.

Q: Are they able to help with Virtual visits? Using the Ipad with the resident?

A: Not at this time. This is something that could be considered in the future but at this time they are not to be directly working with residents.

Q. Can they socialize with residents?

A: Service members may interact with residents to reduce social interaction if the following criteria are met:

- All parties involved are COVID negative
- Guard Members are willing to engage with the resident
- Visitation is conducted in a non-COVID visitation/common area visible by other staff/personnel.

Q: Are they able to move resident furniture after it has been cleaned to the green zone?

A: Guard Members may assist other LTCF staff with movement of sanitized furniture to other areas of the facility. Guard members are NOT to be in resident rooms unaccompanied or only with the room resident. At this time, the Guard Members are NOT to be working in the COVID designated areas, and thus should not be moving furniture from these rooms.

Q: Can the NG answer phones and transfer calls to the appropriate person (i.e.: nurses station) in the facility?

A: In the event the phone coverage for the facility is down and clinicians are being asked to answer phones, if and while they are called away to address their clinical duties, INNG can assist with phones until they are able to return to the phones

Q: Can the NG clean high touch surfaces in the resident's rooms?

A: No, they are not to be doing any cleaning or work in the residents room.

Q. Will the nursing home need to train the Guard Members on their data entry system?

A. Yes, they will likely need support related to systems and data entry. They will get an overview of REDCap training but direction at the facility level would be useful.

Q. Can they fill water pitchers?

A: Not at this time.

Q. Can they unload food boxes from trucks?

A: Not at this time.

Q: Can the Guard Members run errands in the LTCF vehicles?

A: No. This does not directly support the core principles or reduce the impact of social isolation on the residents.

Protocols for Deployment

Q: Does the soldier require PPD before coming to our facility?

A: No, the waiver of the requirement for PPD testing prior to working a skilled nursing facility is still in effect. We are not anticipating the guard to be deployed in this role past 90 days. If the facility wants to provide a PPD test to the guard that is permissible but must be performed at the facility's expense.

Q: We require background checks for all of our staff and volunteers. Have the soldiers had background checks completed?

A: Background checks are done on all Service Members when they come into service, and if there is any cause to do so, a follow up check would be done.

Q. Do the Guard Members work holidays?

A: The National Guard Members can be scheduled during holidays, though we ask that they are given consideration to be off.

Q: My facility would prefer the Guard Members wear something other than their assigned scrubs to our facility (polos, street clothes, etc). Is that permissible?

A: Specific requests like this should be worked out with the soldier and the commanding Officer in Charge. If they approve and the Guard Members are agreeable, it is permissible.

Q. What should our facility offer to the Guard Members for lunch and breaks?

A. They require a minimum of 30 minutes for lunch and two 15 minute breaks, but if the standard at the facility is higher, they can be offered more.

Q: Can the hours the Guard Members work be adjusted to meet the needs of the facility?

A: Yes. Hours can be amended to meet facility demands as long as they allow for the service members to have 2 days off per week and do not require work hours more than 8 hours per day. Requests should be made to the Officers in Charge.

Q: Will facilities be responsible for reporting NG members COVID Test results while deployed in facilities, along with their facility's weekly testing of regular staffed employees? If so, does this need to be documented in REDCap?

A: Yes - this information will need to be reported via the COVID-19 Point of Care Test Reporting REDCap form found at the following link <https://redcap.isdh.in.gov/surveys/?s=ER98AJW9RX>. They will log the POC testing under section 'Test Performed' SARS coronavirus 2 Antigen and device type 'BinaxNOW COVID-19 Ag'

Q. What if the facility does NOT want the NG deployment?

A. Dr. Box has mandated the participation in this program so at this time it is not optional.

Protocol for Positive Test

1. Soldier reports the test to their commanding officer
2. Commanding officer should then inform Probari and IDOH
3. Soldier is considered ***presumptive positive***
4. Soldier to receive PCR test and put into isolation
 1. Positive PCR Test – Soldier is considered true positive and follow isolation guidelines before returning to work (using CDC time or symptom criteria)
 2. Negative PCR Test – Soldier can return to work if asymptomatic
5. Results to be reported to OIC, Probari and ISDH

NOTE - Once a soldier that tested positive completes the 10 day quarantine, they are able to return to work unless symptomatic. This would include repeat positive tests for up to 90 days.

Q: If one of the National Guard members tests positive, will they *all* be pulled from the facility for quarantine?

A: No, only if they meet required CDC close-contact quarantine. Otherwise, the other assigned National Guard Members will continue to report to the facility. There will not be a replacement for the quarantined Guard Member during the time they are off.