



DOH 420-275 December 2019

Washington State Department of Health

NHSN Data Use Agreement for Healthcare Facilities

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is WA State Department of Health entering into a data use agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)'s National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN)?

There are two ways the Washington State Department of Health (WA DOH) can access healthcare facility [NHSN](#) data: 1) If the reporting is required under legislation or 2) Through a data use agreement with NHSN. Starting in January 2020, Washington State's healthcare-associated infection (HAI) reporting mandate (WAC 246-440) will align with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) requirements. As such, some data will no longer be available as part of the state mandated reporting, specifically from critical access hospital and certain locations in acute care hospital.

What is an NHSN data use agreement?

A data use agreement (DUA) is a voluntary agreement that establishes a formal data access and data use relationship between CDC/NHSN and WA DOH. The DUA is the starting point in discussions between state health departments and CDC. For healthcare facilities that wish to opt-out of this voluntary reporting to WA DOH, CDC will provide healthcare facilities the opportunity to do so.

Are other healthcare facility types included in the data use agreement, in addition to acute care and critical access hospitals?

Yes. Outpatient dialysis facilities and ambulatory surgery centers that report into NHSN can be included in the data use agreement between WA DOH and NHSN. The WA DOH expanded the healthcare settings included in the data use agreement in order to serve as a resource.

How will WA Department of Health use these data?

The overarching goal of these access provisions is to enhance the value of data reported to NHSN for public health purposes. Data required by state mandate will be used, as it has been in the past, to develop statewide, facility-level reports that are published on the WA DOH website. Data collected as a part of optional reporting will:

- Not be published publically,
- Be used in conjunction with required reporting data to implement statewide infection prevention strategies, and
- Allow the WA State Department of Health to serve as a resource for hospitals entering NHSN data, assist hospitals with data quality and validation.

Will facilities have to do anything additional within NHSN to participate in the DUA program with WA DOH?

No additional steps will be necessary to share your data such as joining a state health department Group in NHSN. CDC will administer a special Group for WA DOH and your facility will automatically be joined to the Group. Your NHSN Facility Administrator can view the data sharing template for this Group at any time from within the NHSN application.

When will the data use agreement go into effect?

The data use agreement will go into effect January 1, 2020.