IDPH
ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

COVID-19 Question and Answer Session for Long-Term Care and Congregate Residential Settings

May 8, 2020

Housekeeping

- All attendees in listen-only mode
- Submit questions via Q&A pod to **All Panelists**
  - Any other comments, feedback, suggestions for future topics, etc, please submit via chat
- Slides and recording will be made available later

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Agenda

- Past and upcoming webinars
- Latest CMS, CDC, and IDPH updates
- Open Q & A

Slides and recording will be made available after the session.

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IDPH webinars

- **Hand Hygiene and Performance measures- topic will change if there are COVID-19 updates to give (Wednesday, 5/13, 1 – 2 pm):**

  https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/onstage/g.php?MTID=e002fff0fa13b512e81dfae197770ff12

- **Friday Brief Updates and Open Q&A (1-2 pm):**
  - **5/22:**

    https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/onstage/g.php?MTID=e1f723a533a0753b8a5dfffa4914e4726
  - **5/29:**

    https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/onstage/g.php?MTID=e3007014ea78f16862cfba3ebc982f771

Slides and recordings will be made available after the sessions.

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CMS Interim Final Rule

- Federal Register site, scheduled to be published 5/8/20:
  - https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/05/08/2020-09608/medicare-and-medicaid-programs-basic-health-program-and-exchanges-additional-policy-and-regulatory
  - NHSN reporting and case notification to residents, families, etc. under section “Y. Requirement for Facilities to Report Nursing Home Residents and Staff Infections, Potential Infections, and Deaths Related to COVID-19”
  - Open comment period of 60 days from publish date. Instructions for commenting at beginning of the document

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NHSN LTCF COVID-19 Module

FAQ

- When does reporting in the NHSN LTCF COVID-19 Module begin?
  - May 1, 2020 is the recommended date to begin
    - Option 1: Report retrospective data on the first date you report
      - Going back to January 1, 2020 or as far back as possible
    - Option 2: Select the day before your 1st entry to input all past data

- We are a CCRC* how should we enroll our facilities?
  - These facilities should be enrolled SEPARATELY

  Note: Personal Care facilities although not mandated to report are encouraged to report under the Assisted Living Facility Type

- We are enrolled in NHSN as an Acute Care facility but now need to add our LTC or associated SNF
  - Log into NHSN under the FACILITY tab select ADD, input the information for the additional facility

*continuing care retirement community

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NHSN LTCF COVID-19 Module

FAQ

- We are a corporation with a number of facilities, can I be the Facility Administrator for all my facilities?
  - Yes, but each facility must enroll separately into NHSN

- What is the best way to accurately report my staff/personnel shortage?
  - It is recommended to report your counts at the same time every day.
    - If you report on the Staff and Personnel Impact Pathway Form only 1 day a week, it reflects a shortage 1 day that week
    - If you report on the Staff and Personnel Impact Pathway daily, it will count each day you have a shortage and therefore reflect your facility as having a shortage more often.

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NHSN LTCF COVID-19 Module

IMPORTANT NOTES

- It is critical for facilities to ensure their CMS Certification Number (CCN) is entered correctly into the NHSN system, so CMS can confirm the facility has met the reporting requirement.
- Facilities must submit their first set of data by 11:59 p.m. **Sunday, May 17, 2020**.
- Facilities must submit the data through the NHSN reporting system at least **once** every seven days
  - The recommendation is to complete the count at the same TIME every day (ALL residents will be counted regardless of being expired or transferred)

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NHSN LTCF COVID-19 Module

Resources

https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/ltc/covid19/enroll.html

https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/pdfs/covid19/ltcf/fac-guide-covid19-508.pdf

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NHSN LTCF COVID-19 Module

TRAINING

COVID-19 Module Overview for LTCFs (slides)

COVID-19 Module Enrollment Guidance for LTCFs (slides)

LIVE Q & A's

Topic: LTCFs COVID-19 Live Q & A Session Pt. 3
When: May 12, 2020
Time: 1:00 PM ET

Space is limited. Register in advance for this meeting:
https://cdc.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJItfu-pqTkvH2MsV2ABgrYt5vZXOtUN8Yc external icon

Facilities needing temporary registration numbers for NHSN enrollment can get them during these live Q & A's

Topic: LTCFs COVID-19 Live Q & A Session Pt. 4
When: May 14, 2020
Time: 2:00 PM ET

Space is limited. Register in advance for this meeting:
https://cdc.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJIscu2srDsiEglkcW2MxFjkBTLJZ-KwqDg external icon

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NHSN Assistance

Telligen can support Nursing Homes with the COVID-19 Module and

- Enrolling facilities and users in NHSN
- *C. difficile* and UTI surveillance and reporting
- Submitting and analyzing data
- How to use the data for monitoring and surveillance in community
- Telligen Contacts:
  - NGriffin@telligen.com
  - LBridwel@telligen.com

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CMS requirements for case notification – updated (1/2)

- Nursing homes must inform residents, their representatives, and families **by 5 p.m. the next calendar day** following the occurrence of either:
  - a single confirmed infection of COVID-19;
  - or three or more residents or staff with new-onset of respiratory symptoms that occur within 72 hours of each other.
- Also, cumulative updates to residents, their representatives, and families must be provided at least weekly by 5 p.m. the next calendar day following the subsequent occurrence of either:
  - each time a confirmed infection of COVID-19 is identified;
  - or whenever three or more residents or staff with new onset of respiratory symptoms occur within 72 hours of each other.

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CMS requirements for case notification – updated (2/2)

- This information must be reported in accordance with existing privacy regulations and statute, and **must not include Personally Identifiable Information** (PII).
- Facilities **must include information on mitigating actions** implemented to prevent or reduce the risk of transmission, including if normal operations in the nursing home will be altered such as restrictions or limitations to visitation or group activities.
- For purposes of this reporting requirement, **facilities are not expected to make individual telephone calls**. Instead, facilities can utilize communication mechanisms that make this information easily available to all residents, their representatives, and families, such as paper notification, listservs, website postings, and/or recorded telephone messages.

*IDPH guidance will be updated again to align with CMS requirements

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Questions re: notification

- Can written notice be email or actual a written letter?
- Can weekly update be verbal, written or posted on facility website?
- Is the communication to residents, family and staff needed if the facility accepts a resident into the facility who previously tested positive for COVID? i.e. a skilled patient coming from a hospital to recover.

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IDPH efforts: COVID testing for LTC

LTCF with cases identified?	NO	YES
Who will be tested?	Residents and staff	Staff*
Purpose	Identify previously undetected cases. Swiftly implement mitigation strategies to decrease potential spread.	Prevent continued transmission of the virus through staff.
How to get tested?	IDPH will prioritize facilities based on predetermined criteria.	Work with your local health department (LHD).
Who will conduct testing?	Quest	IDPH Laboratory

*If an outbreak is identified early on, testing all residents and staff may be warranted. LTCFs should work with their LHD to discuss testing needs and strategy.
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/nursing-homes-testing.html

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Questions re: LTC testing

- Can we get our facility tested without being selected?
- Will Intermediate Care Facilities/Supportive Living/Assisted Living be included in the testing of all LTC facilities?
- Does IDPH have a timeline for the completion of LTCF COVID testing?
- How are we to handle staff or residents who refuse testing if the facility is being tested? Would there be any further guidance?
- On average how many times are individual staff/residents having to be tested once a positive result is obtained in a long term care setting?
- Is IDPH's plan to arrive at LTCFs and test everyone irrespective of previous testing and known lab-confirmed cases (who may be negative now or may still be positive), or will the support team review recent testing activities by the facility?

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Questions re: Infection Control Guidance

Which [return to work] criteria should we follow if an employee potentially comes into contact with a COVID-positive person, but the employee never develops symptoms and tests negative for COVID?

Can you please clarify: if one staff member becomes Covid +, do we need to test all staff or just the staff that case worked with?

What if an employee does report a single symptom, such as unexplained muscle aches?

What is the name of the app for [symptom] self-monitoring you referred to?

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Questions re: Infection Control Guidance

Where again can i find the specific guidance / requirements r/t vital signs for residents in ALF? We should be following the same guidance as LTC?

Are there plans to have setting specific updates for those that fall under the LTC umbrella but are not SNF? such as ICF ID/D?

Can we allow residents to walk in halls with staff that require assistance (less than 6 ft)?

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Questions re: Infection Control Guidance

When a patient tests positive for Covid, when could they return to their own room and off the Covid unit?

We are assigning a Covid unit at the end of the hallway and have residents on the front end, is this acceptable ?

Can you describe proper cleaning for a patient room that houses a Covid positive person? Is the cleaning done throughout the 14-days, or wait till after the 14-days and wait 24 hours with a window open and the room being empty?

If someone shows symptoms but has a negative test, do we need to be worried about false readings or we can remove from isolation?

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Questions re: Infection Control Guidance

Do you know how the TNA works if you are short staffed on CNA?

Please clarify for me what IDPH is recommending that we use [regarding] crisis staffing protocols as outlined on CDC. We are in a crisis

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Open Q&A

Submit questions via Q&A pod to **All Panelists**

Submit suggestions for future topics, LTCFs best practices, lessons learned via Chat pod to **All Panelists**

Slides and recording will be made available after the session.

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Reminder: SIREN Registration

To receive situational awareness from IDPH, please use this link to guide you to the correct registration instructions for your public health related classification: http://www.dph.illinois.gov/siren

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