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Subject: Point Prevalence Surveys in Assisted Living Facilities
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COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

DATE: August 31, 2020
TO: Licensed Assisted Living Facilities
FROM: Tara Ragland, Director, Division of Licensing Programs
RE: Point Prevalence Surveys in Assisted Living Facilities

On September 2, 2020, the Virginia Air National Guard (VANG) will begin calling assisted living facilities that expressed interest to schedule baseline testing for all residents and staff. VDSS has developed the attached Point Prevalence Surveys (PPS) in Assisted Living Facilities for reference to assist in this process. Facilities who previously indicated that there was no interest in baseline testing may still receive baseline testing by emailing covid19pps@vdh.virginia.gov. VDSS encourages those facilities who will receive a Point Prevalence Survey to begin working on this process prior to receiving the phone call from VANG. VANG is anticipating that testing will begin at assisted living facilities the week of September 8, 2020.

Thank you again for your continued support and dedication to your residents and staff.



Point Prevalence Surveys (PPS) in Assisted Living Facilities

The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) recommends that long-term care facilities do not reopen until all residents and staff members receive a single baseline COVID-19 test. VDSS has compiled tips and best practices for preventative strategies to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Each individual facility should make its decision based on an assessment of its own specific circumstances. This does not diminish the responsibility of assisted living facilities to safely provide care and services to residents and follow existing COVID-19 health and safety guidance.

This information applies to facilities that have chosen to use Virginia Air National Guard (VANG) for testing. Facilities choosing to use a private vendor and laboratory should implement all protocols regarding PPS set forth by that vendor.

Prior to PPS Survey

- Implement infection prevention and control recommendations per [VDH Guidance for LTCFs](#).
- Residents should wear a face covering or face mask at all times when leaving their apartment, unless medically contraindicated.
- Staff should wear a face mask at all times.
- Follow [Recommendations for Cleaning and Disinfection in Healthcare Settings](#).
- Implement best practices including proper screening of staff, residents, and visitors; inventory of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE); communicate plans for staff, residents, and families, and infection prevention and control training and monitoring.
- Development of a Mitigation Plan. Refer [COVID-19 Mitigation Plan for Assisted Living Facilities](#) for additional information.

Conducting PPS

- The facility is responsible for obtaining consent from residents or families for testing.
- The facility is responsible for obtaining the order for testing for all residents and staff by the Medical Director or physician/nurse practitioner, physician's assistant. Facilities that do not have a medical provider providing oversight should obtain orders from the residents' personal provider and staff should obtain an order from their personal provider.
- The Local Health Department (LHD) or the Virginia Air National Guard (VANG) will deliver specimen collection supplies to the facility.

Conducting PPS continued

- The facility should identify staff to collect, label, and package the specimens (nasopharyngeal swab). The facility should supply the necessary PPE for those who collect specimens (gloves, goggles, face mask).
 - The facility could use VANG to collect the specimens; VANG provides its own PPE.
 - Facility staff are responsible for collecting data on each resident tested, including name, date of birth, location within the facility, temperature, and signs or symptoms of illness.
 - VANG will transport specimens collected after PPS is complete. Facilities not using VANG should package specimens according to instructions provided by the testing vendor and have specimens transported to the laboratory by DCLS courier, commercial courier (e.g., FedEx).
- VANG will report results to the provider who ordered the tests and the Administrator/Executive Director of the ALF.

Recommendations Based on Results

- Refer to resident placement and infection prevention regarding positive and negative test results on pages 3-4 [here](#).
- Implement cohorting plan. If cohorting plan is not possible consider:
 - Temporary physical barriers/screens/curtains that separate residents by at least 6 feet.



Point Prevalence Surveys (PPS) in Assisted Living Facilities

Recommendations Based on Results continued

- Transport COVID-19 residents to a dedicated facility. This should be done only if another facility is available and after consulting with the Local Health Department.
- Decisions regarding repeat testing for Health Care Professionals (HCP) or residents should be made with the LHD.
- Retesting should occur for negative residents and staff under the following conditions:
 - Direct exposure to a COVID-19 positive resident.
 - Health Care Professionals within your facility that also work at other healthcare facilities with confirmed COVID-19.
- The facility should use private laboratories for repeat testing.
- Subsequent PPS could be considered according to VDH guidelines.
- Residents that leave the facility for medical appointments or dialysis should be monitored more frequently. Consult with the Local Health Department regarding repeat testing. Refer to [Duration of Isolation and Precautions for Adults with COVID-19](#) and [Discontinuation of Transmission-Based Precautions and Disposition of Patients with COVID-19 in Healthcare Settings \(Interim Guidance\)](#) for additional information.

Facilities that previously stated that they were not interested in testing but who would now like baseline testing should email covid19pps@vdh.virginia.gov to be added to the list. All facilities previously contacted by VDSS that expressed interest have already been placed on the list to be tested.

Additional Resources:

- [Local Health Districts](#)
- [Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Pandemic](#)
- [VDH Role of Public Health and LTCFs in Preparedness and Response Efforts](#)
- [VDH Nursing Home Reopening Guidance](#)
- [Virginia Long Term Care Facility Task Force COVID Playbook.pdf](#)
- [Private Laboratories](#)
- [VDH Cleaning and Disinfection Tips for COVID-19](#)

Contact your licensing inspector if additional information is needed.