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Sent: Wednesday, December 11, 2024 10:54 AM
To: DSS_LICENSING@LISTSERV.COV.VIRGINIA.GOV <DSS_LICENSING@LISTSERV.COV.VIRGINIA.GOV>
Subject: Respiratory and GI Illness Outbreaks Memo

The attached file is being sent to assisted living facilities, adult day centers and children's residential facilities from the Virginia Department of Social Services Email Distribution Service.

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COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

DATE: December 11, 2024

TO: Assisted Living Facilities, Adult Day Centers, and Children's Residential Facilities

FROM: Tara Ragland, Director, Division of Licensing Programs

SUBJECT: Respiratory and Gastrointestinal Illness Outbreaks

Respiratory and gastrointestinal (GI) illness season is underway and has come with an increased number of cases and outbreaks of COVID-19, norovirus, and other respiratory and GI illnesses.

Outbreaks should be reported to your licensing representative and the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) within 24 hours of the occurrence. VDH provides two options for reporting suspected outbreaks. Outbreaks can be reported to your [Local Health District](#) or by using the [Suspected Outbreak Reporting Portal](#).

According to VDH, there is no strict or specific number of cases that need to occur for most communicable diseases to be considered an outbreak. Any unusual level of activity of any illness that might be spread from one person to another or that might be caused by a common exposure should be reported as a suspected outbreak to VDH.

Providers with suspected or confirmed outbreaks of respiratory or GI illnesses should be coordinating with VDH regarding implementation of mitigation strategies, including management of staff with infection or exposure to infections and returning to work.

VDH may schedule a site visit in response to a report of an outbreak to provide mitigation recommendations tailored for that specific setting. Providers are urged to participate in these site visits with VDH to promote the best possible outcomes for residents/participants and staff.

If you have any questions, please contact the Infection Prevention and Control Team at IPCTeam@dss.virginia.gov.