

From: Williams, Edwina (VDSS) <edwina.williams@dss.virginia.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 8, 2023 7:42 PM
To: DSS_LICENSING@LISTSERV.COV.VIRGINIA.GOV <DSS_LICENSING@LISTSERV.COV.VIRGINIA.GOV>
Subject: COVID and Respiratory Illness Memo

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

*****Please do not reply to this email.*****

To unsubscribe from the DSS_LICENSING list, click the following link:
http://listserv.cov.virginia.gov/scripts/wa.exe?SUBED1=DSS_LICENSING&A=1

SCROLL DOWN TO VIEW ATTACHMENT



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

DATE: December 8, 2023

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

FROM: Tara Ragland, Director, Division of Licensing Programs

RE: Respiratory Illness Outbreaks and Mitigation Strategies

Respiratory illness season is underway and has come with an increased number of cases and outbreaks of COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses. The Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) Division of Licensing Programs (DOLP) has received reports that some providers are experiencing outbreaks resulting in staff shortages.

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](#) by contacting them directly 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 COVID-19 and other respiratory 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.

In general, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and VDH recommend facilities follow [conventional strategies](#), the safest practice, when determining return to work criteria for staff with SARS-CoV-2 infection.

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