

From: **Williams, Edwina** <edwina.williams@dss.virginia.gov>
Date: Fri, Nov 19, 2021 at 9:32 AM
Subject: VDSS Receives Infection Control Grant
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COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

DATE: November 15, 2021

TO: Assisted Living Facilities and Adult Day Care Centers

FROM: Tara Ragland, Director, Division of Licensing Programs

RE: VDSS Receives Grant for Infection Prevention and Control

The Virginia Department of Social Services Division of Licensing Programs (VDSS) is pleased to announce the receipt of a grant in partnership with the Virginia Department of Health (VDH). The primary focus of this funding is to respond to COVID-19 and preparedness for COVID-19 and other emerging infectious and communicable diseases. The grant will provide essential infection prevention and control support to licensed adult providers throughout the Commonwealth.

This grant will allow VDSS to provide multi-faceted support that will bolster providers' expertise in infectious and communicable diseases through improved education and training. We are also developing a new data system to ensure tracking and communication of infectious disease threats. This data tracking, along with your assistance, will guide VDSS in developing and disseminating educational training regarding infection control practices.

Funding for this program is provided by a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity for Prevention and Control of Emerging Infectious Diseases Cooperative Agreement ([ELC](#)). VDSS is a sub-recipient through VDH for the ELC funding, which will allow us to better support you and your staff.

Funding will be used to create an Infection Prevention and Control Team (IPCT) in each region in the Commonwealth. The IPCT will conduct on-site scheduled tours of licensed adult programs to observe infection control practices and provide expertise on risk reduction strategies and mitigation techniques. In-person and virtual training will be developed using data collected through on-site observations, infectious disease reporting, ongoing surveys, and review of infection control plans and infectious and communicable disease policies.

This program will be a great resource to you and your staff and will provide ongoing support in mitigating the spread of COVID-19 and all other infectious diseases. Your support is critical; the success of this program will require participation from all clinical and non-clinical staff members within ALL departments. In the coming weeks, you will receive a survey for all staff to gather information regarding your infection control needs. For more information, contact IPCTeam@dss.virginia.gov

Thank you for your continued support. We are excited about this opportunity, and we look forward to assisting you in the important work of mitigating infectious disease.