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Sent: Wednesday, October 26, 2022 4:46 PM
To: DSS_LICENSING@LISTSERV.COV.VIRGINIA.GOV <DSS_LICENSING@LISTSERV.COV.VIRGINIA.GOV>
Subject: Updated CDC COVID-19 Guidance

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COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

DATE: October 26, 2022
TO: Assisted Living Facilities
FROM: Tara Ragland, Director, Division of Licensing Programs
RE: Updated CDC COVID-19 Guidance for Assisted Living Facilities

On September 23, 2022, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated guidelines for [Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Pandemic](#). CDC uses two measures with similar names to guide COVID-19 prevention and mitigation strategies for healthcare and non-healthcare settings. Each facility should determine, based on the model of services it provides, which measure to follow to mitigate risk.

- **Measure 1:** *Community Transmission* measures the presence and spread of SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19) in **healthcare settings** and is used to guide infection prevention and control. It is intended to allow for earlier intervention to better protect healthcare recipients and avoid strain on the healthcare system. Facilities can check Community Transmission [here](#) (scroll to the bottom of the page).
- **Measure 2:** The COVID-19 *Community Level* is used for **non-healthcare settings** and measures the presence and spread of SARS-CoV-2 in the community. Facilities can check COVID-19 Community Levels [here](#).

Changes to Recommendations for Assisted Living Facilities (ALFs)

1. Recommendations for ALFs that directly provide healthcare-related services or whose residents receive contracted healthcare services:
 - Continue to follow [Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Healthcare Settings](#). Examples of healthcare services include hospice care, physical therapy, wound care, urinary catheter care, intravenous injections, and any other procedures requiring licensed healthcare personnel.
 - Follow both [Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Healthcare Settings](#) and [Community Transmission](#) for mask guidance. When the community transmission level is high, masking for source control is recommended for everyone in the facility. Any staff providing direct care for a resident diagnosed with COVID-19 infection should also follow this guidance.
2. Recommendation for ALFs that do not provide any type of healthcare-related service and provide only non-skilled personal care (i.e., bathing, dressing) similar to that provided by family members in the home:

- Follow [community prevention strategies based on COVID-19 Community Levels](#). These strategies also include guidance on masks.

Screening and Visitation

- Active screening of staff and visitors upon entry to the facility is no longer required. Self-screening by staff and visitors continues to be recommended.
- Facilities should adhere to local and state regulations related to visitation. Current guidance states that visitation should not be generally restricted.
- Post signs at all entrances to inform visitors of the facility's restrictions to visitation based on the following three criteria: a positive viral test for SARS-CoV-2, symptoms of COVID-19, or close contact with someone with COVID-19 infection.

Additional Infection Prevention and Control Reminders

- The designated staff person who serves as the point of contact for the infection control program should monitor the appropriate measure above (Measure 1 or Measure 2) **at least weekly** to determine the appropriate infection prevention and control measures to implement.
- ALFs need to follow their infection control program (22VAC40-73-100), which:
 - Should be based on CDC guidelines
 - Should include procedures to implement infection prevention measures and use of personal protective equipment.
- If there is an outbreak, the facility must follow health department recommendations (22VAC40-73-100 F), which could include masking while the outbreak is active or during high community transmission levels.

The COVID-19 prevention and mitigation strategies in this memo provide non-regulatory best practice guidance. Facilities may contact VDSS' Infection Prevention and Control Team (IPCT) at ipcteam@dss.virginia.gov for guidance or direction on strategies to prevent or control transmission of COVID-19 or any other communicable disease.

Thank you for the important work you continue to do in caring for the residents in your facilities.