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Date: Tue, Sep 7, 2021 at 8:40 AM  
Subject: VDSS COVID-19 Update  
To: <DSS\_LICENSING@listserv.cov.virginia.gov>

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# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

**DATE:** September 3, 2021

**TO:** Licensed Assisted Living Facilities

**FROM:** Tara Ragland, Director, Division of Licensing Programs

**RE:** COVID-19 Update

As we continue to navigate through the COVID-19 pandemic, I want to take a moment to thank you and your staff for your continued care and support to one of the most vulnerable populations in the Commonwealth. I had high hopes, as I am sure you did, that we would be beyond these updates at this juncture. Please know that the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) Division of Licensing Programs (DOLP) will continue to support you and your staff throughout this journey.

In a renewed effort to supply our providers with the most updated COVID-19 information, DOLP in the coming weeks will provide COVID-19 updates on various topics and items you should consider having on hand as you prepare for Fall 2021. Checklist items such as infection control, PPE, fit-testing plans, testing resources, vaccination, therapeutics and communication plans, will be covered in the updates.

With vaccine breakthrough and unvaccinated COVID-19 cases on the rise, the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) is working to gather crucial data from all Long-Term Care Facilities (LTCF) in the Commonwealth. VDH is requesting your assistance in this effort to better understand how much additional COVID-19 vaccine will be needed to ensure ample supply to Virginia's LTCF. Please take a moment, if you haven't already, to complete this very short [survey](#). The deadline for completion is Friday, September 10, 2021.

Increases in [community transmission](#) and [positivity rate](#) throughout the Commonwealth continues, with the Delta variant being the main variant circulating in Virginia, The Delta variant is much more contagious and is believed to spread quicker than the original COVID-19 virus. VDH continues to see a dramatic increase in positive cases being reported in Virginia's

LTCF, especially in staff. A [recent health advisory](#) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), urges increased vaccinations and mask usage. Please continue to encourage any unvaccinated residents and staff to become fully vaccinated. As a reminder, [masks](#) should still be worn while inside all healthcare settings, regardless of vaccination status, to slow the spread of the virus.

The [VDH COVID-19 Outbreak Dashboard](#) was reactivated August 25, 2021. This dashboard includes all outbreaks (confirmed and suspected) reported to VDH since August 1, 2021, and will be updated weekly on Fridays.

A reminder, all reports of COVID-19 positive and deaths for residents and staff are required by [regulation](#). VDH has a [supplemental form](#) that can assist you in collecting the information that is needed when making a COVID-19 report to your local health department and to DOLP. Please feel free to utilize this very helpful tool.

Another source of information for providers is the [Virginia COVID-19 Long-Term Care Task Force](#) website. The website is updated regularly and provides a wealth of information for all LTCF providers.

Again, thank you for your continued partnership in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. Stay tuned for additional and more specific updates in the coming weeks.