



Virginia Long-Term Care Task Force Monthly Updates

COVID-19 Burden in Virginia LTCFs:

There were 72 LTCF COVID-19 outbreaks reported in the past 30 days (as of 12/01/2022). This is a slight increase compared to the number of outbreaks reported (87) in the previous month (10/01 - 10/31). The number of reported nursing home resident and staff have been consistent for the past several months .

Regulatory Updates for Nursing Homes:

On 10/26/2022, CMS published a revised [State Operations Manual Appendix PP - Guidance to Surveyors for Long-Term Care Facilities](#). Numerous sections related to infection prevention and control were updated including F880 (Requirements for the facility's infection prevention and control program) and F882 (Designating a qualified individual who is responsible for the infection prevention and control program; education requirements for this individual).

How to Develop a Respiratory Protection Program:

There is a new resource to help you develop a respiratory protection program (RPP). The goal of an RPP is to prevent the spread of small aerosol germs or particles that can cause disease. Most places that provide healthcare services are required to have an RPP. You should develop your RPP to meet the needs in your facility.

You can find more information on RPPs by using the [How to Develop a Respiratory Protection Program Resource](#) and at the [VDH N95 Respiratory Fit Testing Train-The-Trainer Website](#).

How to Develop a Respiratory Protection Program

1. What is a Respiratory Protection Program (RPP)?
The goal of an RPP is to prevent the spread of small aerosol germs or particles that can cause disease. You should develop your RPP to meet the needs in your facility.

2. Do you need a RPP?
Most places that provide healthcare services are required to have an RPP. If you are not sure if you need an RPP, check out this quick [VDH: Do you need an RPP survey](#).

3. Get started creating an RPP

1. General overview of an RPP: Watch [OSHA Respirators Protection Training Requirements video](#) (7 min)
2. Visit the [VDH N95 Respiratory Fit Testing Resources webpage](#).
3. Review RPP Standards: [OSHA 29 CFR 1910.134](#) and [VA Code 16VAC25-60-120](#)
4. Use the checklist provided on the next page to get started.

Do you want extra resources before you get started?

- [OSHA Respiratory Protection webpage](#)
- [CDC/NIOSH Healthcare Respiratory Protection Resources webpage](#)
- [AAOHN Free Respiratory Protection Course](#)

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Checklist to Create a Respiratory Protection Program

Start your Respiratory Protection Program (RPP)

1. Confirm the facility needs to have an RPP: [VDH: Do you need an RPP survey](#).
2. Pick an RPP administrator, who will create and help run the program.
3. Provide training for the RPP Administrator including:
 - a. VDH Presentation: [N95 Fit Test Procedures](#)
 - b. OSHA Video: [The Difference Between Respirators and Surgical Masks](#) (5 min)
 - c. OSHA Video: [Respirator Types NIOSH approved N95 masks](#) (16 min) and [NIOSH list](#)
 - d. CDC Reference: [Hospital Respiratory Protection Program Toolkit](#)
 - e. VDH Respiratory Protection Program Knowledge Assessment [Test](#)
4. Create an RPP Plan for your facility
 - You can use the [VDH RPP template](#). Your Plan must include all 11 required sections.

Get ready for your first fit testing event

1. Plan who will do fit testing at your facility (your trained staff or an outside company)
 - a. **Prep your staff to perform the fit testing**
 - OSHA Video: [Respiratory Protection for Healthcare Workers](#) (53 min)
 - VDH Documents: [Example step by step testing procedures](#)
 - VDH Document: [Respirator Fit Test Record Form](#)
 - How to do fit testing: [3M Fit Test Kit Training Video](#)* (7 min)
 - OR
 - b. **Pick a private company to perform fit testing services**
 - VDH Document: [Private companies that provide N95 fit test training*](#)
2. Medical Evaluation: Pick a licensed health care professional and provide training:
 - a. OSHA Video: [Medical Evaluations for Workers Who Use Respirators](#) (9 min)
 - b. OSHA [Medical Questionnaire](#) or facility-created form with **required** information
 - c. [Medical Recommendation for Respirator Use Form](#)
 - d. [Plan](#) for when Powered Air-Purifying Respirators (PAPRs) may be needed.

*Disclaimer: The vendors and companies linked as resources are not an exhaustive list. This information is meant to be a resource. The Virginia Department of Health assumes no responsibility or liability for the information made available by the vendors or companies referenced on support resources.

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Enhanced Barrier Precaution Webinar Resources:

On 11/16/2022, the VDH HAI/AR Program held a webinar for nursing homes on enhanced barrier precautions. Webinar [slides](#), a [video recording](#), Q&A, and supporting resources ([implementation algorithm](#) and [frequently asked questions](#)) are available on the VDH [website](#).

COVID-19 Variants, Subvariants, and Drug Activity:

On November 30, 2022 the [FDA Announced Bebtelovimab is Not Currently Authorized in Any U.S. Region](#) and is not currently authorized for emergency use. The drug is being pulled because it is not expected to neutralize Omicron variants BQ.1 and BQ.1.1. All authorized distributors have paused commercial distribution until further notice.

COVID-19 Updates:

- CDC recently published additional COVID-19 guidance for [community congregate living settings](#) (e.g., group homes, assisted living facilities). Healthcare services delivered in these settings should be informed by [CDC's Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations](#).
- **Webinar Resources:**
 - On 11/9/2022, the VDH HAI/AR Program, in collaboration with the VDH Office of Licensure and Certification and the Virginia Department of Social Services, held a webinar on CDC and CMS COVID-19 infection prevention and control updates. [Slides](#), a [video recording](#), and [Q&A responses](#) have been posted on the VDH COVID-19 LTC Task Force website (Education & Training Resources --> COVID-19 Related Trainings).

Protect Yourself. Protect Your Loved Ones. Get Your Flu Vaccine:

The HAI/AR Program wants to share a friendly reminder that it is important to get your [flu shot](#). As we enter the holiday season, we are also in the cold and flu season. One way to help mitigate and limit the spread is by [getting vaccinated](#). Your family and loved ones will thank you for making their health a priority.

Stakeholder Information from LeadingAge Virginia:

LeadingAge Virginia Launches Infection Control Initiative for Virginia's Adult Day Centers

LeadingAge Virginia was recently awarded funding to develop infection prevention and control policies for all licensed adult day centers across the state. The initiative is supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) through the Virginia Department of Health.

In partnership with Health Quality Innovators (HQI), LeadingAge Virginia will focus on the following initiative goals:

- Develop model policies in accordance with state regulations and requirements
- Provide a program of policies that can be easily adopted and decrease the risk of infections
- Support implementation of the policies
- Provide opportunities for peer-to-peer learning and collaboration

Your help is needed! Here are a few ways to get involved:

- Consider becoming a member of the Adult Day Center Infection Prevention Workgroup. Complete a [brief online form](#) to indicate your interest.
- Share your infection prevention policies and procedures and Virginia Department of Social Services infection prevention and control assessment feedback so that best practices can be gleaned and incorporated into the initiative.
- Share adult day center information (articles, websites, journals, etc.) focusing on infection prevention and control that you are aware of to help bolster our planning efforts.

Please send any questions and requested information to **HQI Consultant Felicity Wood** at fwood@hqi.solutions or (804) 289-5301.

VDH Team Contact Information:

- Testing: testinginfo@vdh.virginia.gov
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- Infection Prevention and Control: hai@vdh.virginia.gov

Have any important updates or information for the Virginia COVID-19 Long-Term Care Task Force?

Email Jessica Caggiano (jessica.caggiano@vdh.virginia.gov)



