



December 2021

Long-Term Care Facility Task Force Monthly Updates

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Long-Term Care Facility Meeting Updates

Data Update

- There were 56 LTCF COVID-19 outbreaks reported in the past 30 days. The number of reported nursing home resident and staff cases have increased in recent weeks
- For the reporting week ending December 5, 2021, data reported from 281 nursing homes showed 88% of residents and 86% of staff were fully vaccinated

- Of the nursing home residents eligible to receive an additional dose or booster, 63% have received an additional dose or booster of COVID-19 vaccine. Of the nursing home healthcare personnel eligible to receive an additional dose or booster, 36% have received an additional dose or booster of COVID-19 vaccine

COVID-19 Variant Check-In

- Delta continues to be the main variant circulating the US
- Omicron confirmed in Virginia
 - [VHD Clinician Letter](#) (12/14/2021)
 - [VDH Variants Dashboard](#) (updated weekly on Fridays)

Vaccine Update

- The [Toolkit](#) for Long-Term Care Facilities to Sustain COVID-19 Vaccine Access has been updated to reflect the latest COVID-19 vaccine recommendations

Long-Term Care Data Monitoring – Virginia Health Information (VHI)

- Please review slides 19-46 of the LTC Task Force presentation slides for further information
- Contacts for questions
 - Onboarding questions: Kelly Richards, VHI Program Support Specialist (kelly@vhi.org)
 - Technical questions: Kelly Butler, Collective Medical Senior Customer Success Manager (Kelly.Butler@collectivemedicaltech.com)

Visitation Check-In

- New resource available from VDH on the COVID LTC Task Force website: [Visiting a Loved One in a Nursing Home](#)
- Per CMS, nursing homes must allow visitation; see [CMS visitation guidance](#) revised 11/12/2021

Testing Check-In

- NOTE: VDH no longer receives the federally supplied test kits for distribution. HHS ships directly to agencies—alternative test kits are shipped directly to:
 - FQHC
 - Rural Hospitals and Health Clinics
 - Food Banks
- For assistance finding vendors to purchase tests, please follow this [link](#)
- To mitigate potential constraints with antigen testing supplies, facilities should consider contracting with a private lab for PCR testing
- Please email questions to testinginfo@vdh.virginia.gov

CMS Vaccine Requirement for Health Care Staff

- Please review updated FAQs [here](#)
- On November 29th and 30th, 2021, two preliminary injunctions were issued against the Interim Final Rule
- CMS has appealed and filed motions for stays of these orders.

- CMS has suspended activities related to the implementation and enforcement of this rule pending future developments in the litigation

Monoclonal Antibody (mAb) Update

- AstraZeneca's new monoclonal antibody, Evusheld, has received FDA Emergency Use Authorization on December 8th, 2021
- Please find an [FDA News Release](#) about Evusheld and the [EUA package insert](#)
- mAbs are still underutilized in the long-term care setting, so please reach out to brooke.rossheim@vdh.virginia.gov with any questions

2022 LTC Funding

- In October 2021, Virginia received \$9.9M under a CDC Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) Cooperative Agreement for a Nursing Home and Long-Term Care Facility Strike Team and Infrastructure Project
- VDH has received 10 applications representing a total \$10.87M in requests for project funding
- For more information, please refer to slides 52 and 53 of the LTC Task Force presentation

Influenza Check-In

- CDC recommends that healthcare providers continue to recommend and offer influenza vaccination to persons aged six months and older because influenza activity is ongoing
- Virginia is currently at the "Widespread" geographic activity level for influenza, meaning there is increased influenza activity in three or more regions of the state
- Virginia is observing a gradual increase in the number of positive influenza A(H3N2) labs
- In the past, influenza A(H3N2) virus-predominant seasons were associated with more hospitalizations and deaths in persons aged 65 years and older than other age groups than other influenza viruses
- [More information from CDC can be found here](#)
- [The VDH Weekly Influenza Report can be accessed here](#)

Long-Haul COVID-19: An Impending Dementia Crisis

- Please refer to slides 57-76 for more on this presentation
- For questions, please reach out to Paul Aravich (aravicpf@evms.edu)

Task Force Communication Blast

VDH Monoclonal Antibody Webinar

Dates

- Please find the links to register for our VDH mAb webinars (registration is required):
 - 01/05/2022 from 12-1PM:
<https://bit.ly/3F1PXD2>
 - 01/13/2022 from 12-1PM:
<https://bit.ly/33FqilT>
 - 01/18/2022 from 12-1PM:
<https://bit.ly/3F57zxE>
 - 01/26/2022 from 12-1PM:
<https://bit.ly/3dW2v2X>

Have any important updates or information for the Virginia Department of Health's Long-Term Care Task Force? Please email them to Kyle Nickel (knickel@deloitte.com)