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Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2024 10:13 AM
To: DSS_LICENSING@LISTSERV.COV.VIRGINIA.GOV <DSS_LICENSING@LISTSERV.COV.VIRGINIA.GOV>
Subject: Updated CDC Respiratory Virus Guidance Memo

The attached file is being sent to assisted living facilities and adult day care centers from the Virginia Department of Social Services Email Distribution Service.

*****Please do not reply to this email.*****



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COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

DATE: March 7, 2024
TO: Assisted Living Facilities and Adult Day Care Centers
FROM: Tara Ragland, Director, Division of Licensing Programs
RE: Updated CDC Respiratory Virus Guidance

On March 1, 2024, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released updated [respiratory virus guidance for community settings](#).

Recommendations for Assisted Living Facilities (ALFs)

- Recommendations for ALFs that directly provide healthcare-related services or whose residents receive contracted healthcare services **have not changed:**
 - Examples of healthcare services include hospice care, physical therapy, wound care, urinary catheter care, intravenous injections, and any other procedures requiring licensed healthcare personnel.
 - Continue to follow [CDC guidance for healthcare settings](#) for return-to-work criteria, mask guidance, testing, and additional prevention and mitigation steps.
- Recommendations for ALFs that do not provide any type of healthcare-related service and provide only non-skilled personal care (e.g., bathing, dressing) similar to that provided by family members in the home **have been updated:**
 - Follow [CDC respiratory virus guidance](#) for community settings, which includes guidance on masks, physical distancing, and testing.

Recommendations for Adult Day Care Centers (ADCCs)

- Recommendations for ADCC's have not changed. Continue to follow [CDC respiratory virus guidance](#) for community settings, which includes guidance on masks, physical distancing, and testing.
 - For centers that provide healthcare-related services continue to follow [CDC guidance for healthcare settings](#) for return-to-work criteria, mask guidance, testing, and additional prevention and mitigation steps.

Additional Infection Prevention and Control Reminders

- The designated staff person who serves as the point of contact for the infection control program should perform surveillance for respiratory illnesses as they occur and to determine the appropriate infection prevention and control measures to implement. Increase surveillance during respiratory virus season (typically October-April), or anytime levels of illness are increased.

- ALFs and ADCCs should follow their infection control program (22VAC40-73-100 & 22VAC40-61-290), which:
 - Must be based on CDC guidelines.
 - Must 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 recommendations for masking, use of transmission-based precautions, and return to work guidelines for staff.

Thank you for all you do for those entrusted to your care.

Facilities may contact VDSS's Infection Prevention and Control Team (IPCT) at ipcteam@dss.virginia.gov for any questions regarding strategies to prevent or control transmission of respiratory illnesses or any other communicable disease.