



**COVID-19 Question and Answer Session  
for Long-Term Care and Congregate Residential  
Settings**

June 5, 2020

# Housekeeping

- All attendees in listen-only mode
- Submit questions via Q&A pod to **All Panelists**
  - Any other comments, feedback, suggestions for future topics, etc, please submit via chat
- Slides and recording will be made available later

# Agenda

- Upcoming webinars
- LTCF NHSN IDPH Group
- Testing in Long Term Care
- Open Q & A

Slides and recording will be made available after the session.

# IDPH webinars

- **Friday Brief Updates and Open Q&A (1-2 pm):**

Friday June 12<sup>th</sup>

<https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/onstage/g.php?MTID=e8ca48172d718c49749e1f2353ee1f8f8>

Note: no planned session for June 15 because IDPH will host an LTC webinar on **Wed, June 17<sup>th</sup>, at 1 pm**

Wednesday June 17<sup>th</sup>

<https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/onstage/g.php?MTID=e31c66916c51c637e7f367c69c2e60003>

Friday June 26<sup>th</sup>

<https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/onstage/g.php?MTID=e6f73a652185dcfe658ff3b2ff02bb5fb>

**Slides and recordings will be made available after the sessions.**



# LTCF NHSN IDPH Group

IDPH has created a group in NHSN for your facility to share COVID-19 data with the State. IDPH intends to use this summary data for situational awareness as well as public health response. While there is no State mandate at this time, your participation is strongly encouraged.

There will be **NO** increased reporting on the part of your healthcare facility. All that needs to be done is to join the IDPH group.

## Joining a Group:

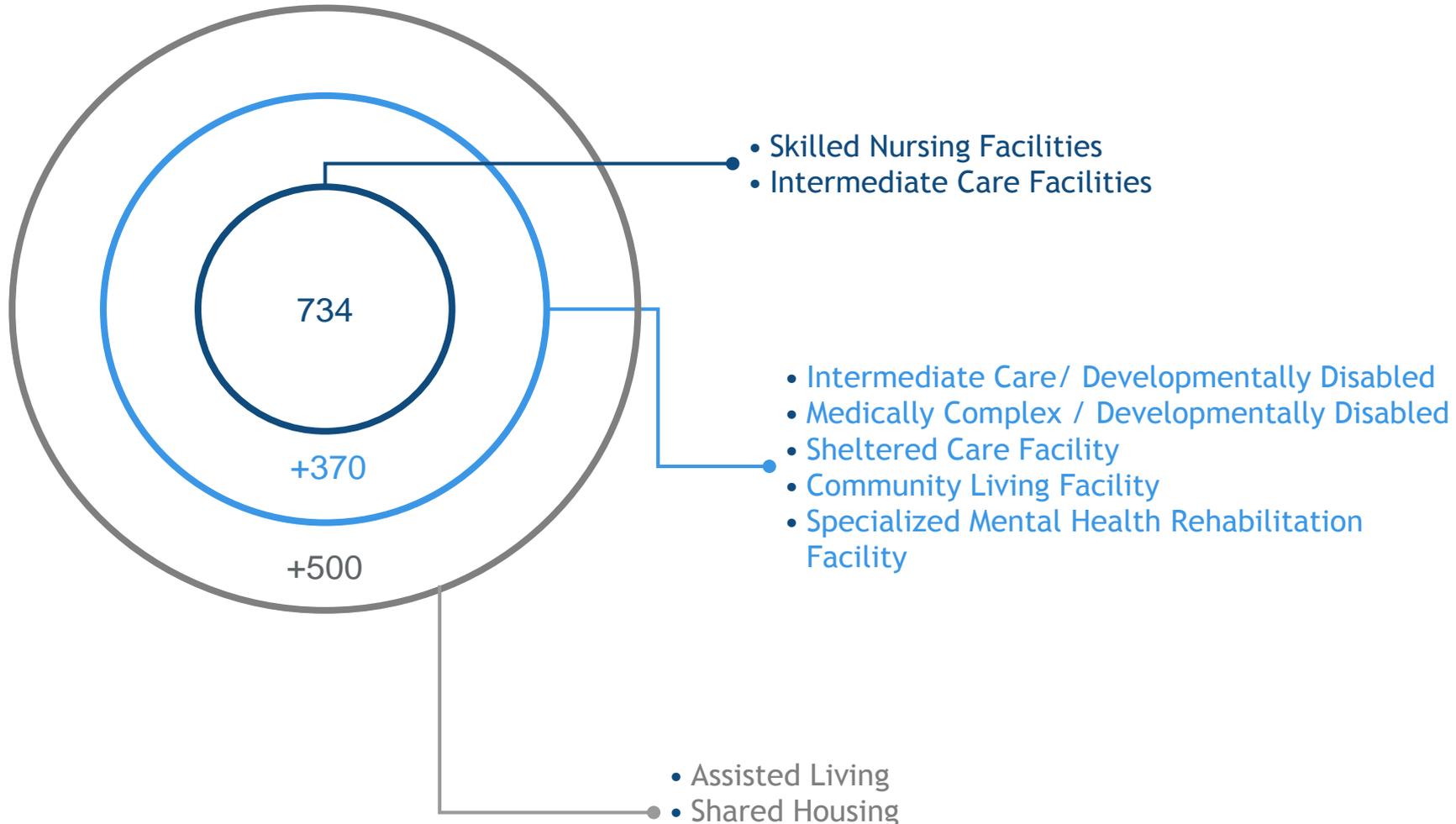
The NHSN facility administrator can join the group by selecting “Group” in the NHSN left navigation bar and then clicking “Join”. This will open the Memberships page. Enter the 5-digit Group ID and the group password then click on “Join Group.”

**Note:** Password is case sensitive.

The screenshot shows the NHSN interface. On the left, the navigation menu has 'Group' selected, and a dropdown menu is open with 'Join' highlighted in green. A blue arrow points from this menu to the 'Memberships' page. The 'Memberships' page has a section titled 'Enter ID and Password for this facility to join a new group' with fields for 'Group ID' and 'Group Joining Password', and a 'Join Group' button highlighted in red. A 'Back' button is also visible at the bottom.

**Group ID: 78568**  
**Joining Group Password: Illinois19!**

# LTCF definition(s)



Note: Figure does not include non-IDPH regulated facilities, eg. Supportive Living Slide courtesy Rachel Whitcomb (BCG) and Avery Hart (IDPH consultant)

# IDPH LTC Testing Memo



Note: Figure does not include non-IDPH regulated facilities, eg. Supportive Living  
Slide adapted from Rachel Whitcomb (BCG) and Avery Hart (IDPH consultant)

# LTC Testing Resources

- **New IDPH LTC testing website!**  
<http://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/community-guidance/long-term-care-covid-19-testing-requirements>
- **LTC webinar recording from 6/4:**  
<https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/lsr.php?RCID=38ad03f820f549c5a485d2e50de35366>
- **LTC testing mailbox:** [dph.ltctesting@illinois.gov](mailto:dph.ltctesting@illinois.gov)

# CDC FAQs on persistent/recurrent SARS-CoV-2 positivity

## Managing COVID-19 Cases With Persistent or Recurrent RT-PCR Positive Tests for SARS-CoV-2 After Having Recovered and Completed Isolation

What do we know about detection of SARS-CoV-2 RNA after clinical recovery from COVID-19?	+
Are clinically recovered persons infectious to others if they test persistently or recurrently positive for SARS-CoV-2 RNA?	+
Can cycle threshold (Ct) values be used to assess when a person is no longer infectious?	+
What further evidence is needed to be reassured that persistent or recurrent shedding of SARS-CoV-2 RNA after recovery does not represent the presence of infectious virus?	+
Can viral culture be used to demonstrate that a person who had persistently or recurrently detectable viral RNA is not infectious to others?	+
A person who previously tested positive by RT-PCR for SARS-CoV-2 and clinically recovered from COVID-19 is later tested again, for example as part of a contact tracing investigation. If that person again tests positive by RT-PCR, should they be managed as potentially infectious to others, and isolated again for COVID-19?	+
If a previously infected person has clinically recovered but later develops symptoms consistent with COVID-19, should the person be isolated again and tested for SARS-CoV-2?	+
If an infected person has clinically recovered and then later is identified as a contact of a new case, do they need to be quarantined?	+
If an infected person has clinically recovered using the symptom-based strategy, do they need a test of cure?	+

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/faq.html>

# Refer to CDC guidance for re-testing positives

- In outbreak situations, CDC recommends retesting **all previously negative** residents and HCP
- Discontinuation of transmission-based precautions and Return to work criteria for HCP
  - Symptom-based strategy
  - Time-based strategy (for asymptomatic cases)
  - Test-based strategy (“Of note, there have been reports of prolonged detection of RNA without direct correlation to viral culture.”)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/nursing-homes-testing.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/disposition-hospitalized-patients.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/return-to-work.html>

# Open Q&A

Submit questions via Q&A pod to **All Panelists**

Submit suggestions for future topics, LTCFs best practices, lessons learned via Chat pod to **All Panelists**

Slides and recording will be made available after the session.

# Reminder: SIREN Registration

To receive situational awareness from IDPH, please use this link to guide you to the correct registration instructions for your public health related classification:  
<http://www.dph.illinois.gov/siren>