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

October 2nd, 2020

Housekeeping

- All attendees in listen-only mode

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

- Slides and recording will be made available later

Agenda

- Upcoming Webinars
- Point of Care Test Reporting
- CMS Changes to Test Positivity Rates
- Mitigation Measures in Region 1
- Visitation Updates
- FAQ from Last Week
- Open Q & A

Slides and recording will be made available after the session.

IDPH webinars

Friday Brief Updates and Open Q&A

Friday, October 9th	https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/onstage/g.php?MTID=e3e3d9a2aabc8be5c94f60847787686699
Thursday, October 15th	https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/onstage/g.php?MTID=e5c96738693dd129680c10797f09d5da5
Friday, October 23rd	https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/onstage/g.php?MTID=eee36e6230ecadbf04282a4fa264aed8e
Friday, October 30th	https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/onstage/g.php?MTID=ec2188756e1dea85052f6e78c5a702f0b

Slides and recordings will be made available after the sessions.

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NHSN Point of Care (POC) Laboratory Reporting Pathway - Update

- NHSN will release a new Point of Care Laboratory Reporting Pathway on October 15.
  - Enables CMS-certified facilities to meet the Department of Health and Human Services' requirement to report SARS-CoV-2 point-of-care antigen test data.
  - NHSN users will need to upgrade their NHSN Secure Access Management Service (SAMS) from Level 1 to Level 3.

- **Facilities can actively reach out to NHSN to start the process of gaining Level 3 SAMS access.**
  - E-mail NHSN@cdc.gov with the subject line "Enhancing Data Security."
  - The NHSN team will contact the SAMS team on behalf of the NHSN user.
  - The NHSN user will receive a communication from SAMS via sams-no-reply@cdc.gov requesting two forms of identification.

- NHSN recommends that a second NHSN user within a nursing home upgrade to Level 3 SAMS access.

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Reminder – IDPH POC Testing Portal

- Facilities conducting in-house POC testing for SARS-CoV-2 must report individual positive and negative results via a new IDPH POC Testing Portal

- Register for the portal here with your CLIA #: https://redcap.link/dph.illinois.gov.poccovid19registration

- Once registration is processed, facility will be emailed unique link to begin reporting
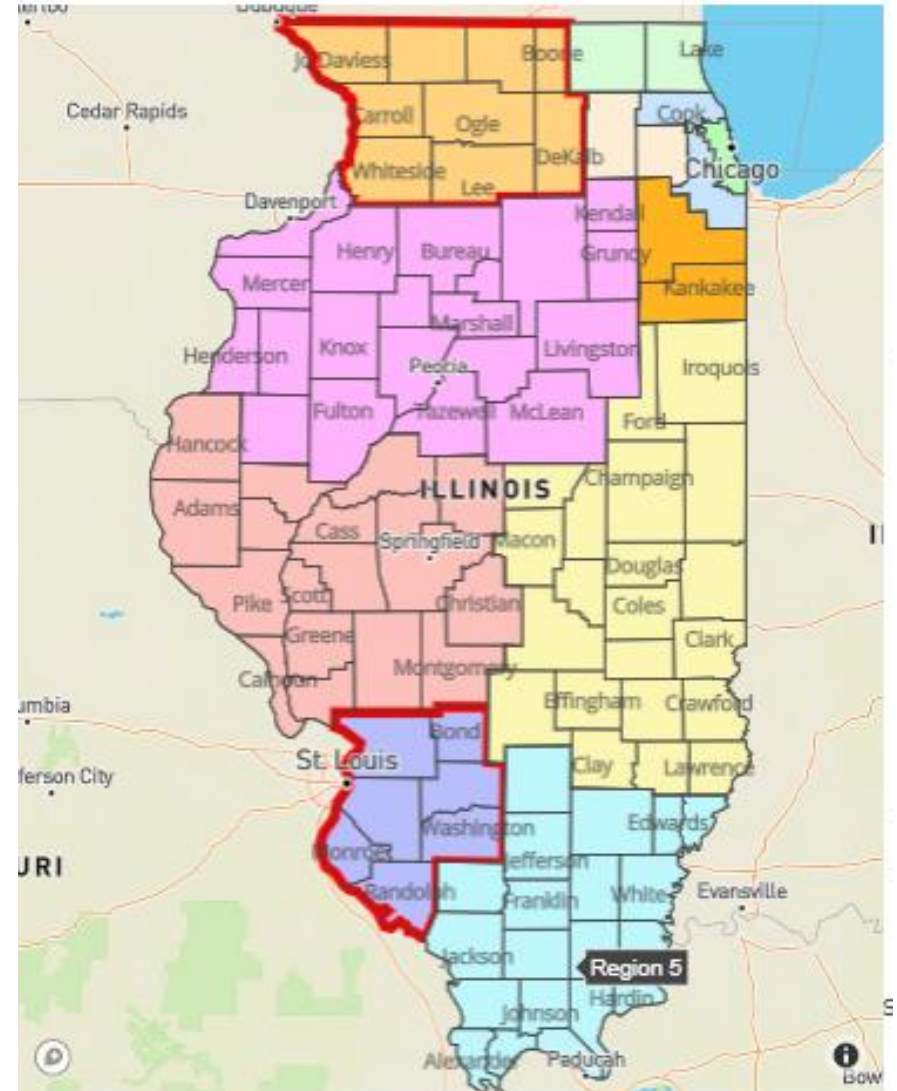
CMS changes to county test positivity rates

- Include 14 days of data (previously 7)
- Modified test positivity classification to account for smaller counties

Test Positivity Classification	Description	Minimum Test Frequency
GREEN	Test percent positivity <5.0% or with <20 tests	Once per month
YELLOW	Test percent positivity 5.0%-10.0% or with <500 tests and <2000 tests/100k and >10% positivity	Once per week
RED	Test percent positivity >10.0% and not meeting the criteria for "Green" or "Yellow"	Twice per week

Due to these changes, for now LTCFs should follow CMS rates when determining HCP routine testing frequency.

https://data.cms.gov/stories/s/COVID-19-Nursing-Home-Data/bkwz-xpvg

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Mitigation Measures & LTC Reopening

- **Tier 1 mitigation measures to start in Region 1 on Saturday, Oct 3ʳᵈ**

- **Region 4 still in mitigation**

  – LTCFs in CMS Phase 3 must suspend indoor visitation and off-site outings. Can resume 14 days after tiered mitigation for the region is lifted.

  – LTCFs not in CMS Phase 3 are not eligible to advance to CMS Phase 3 until 14 days after tiered mitigation in the region is lifted.

  – Outdoor visitation may continue.

Visitation in LTCF

Visitation Guidance (aligning CMS & IDPH)

	Virtual Visitation	Compassionate or End of Life Visitations	Outdoor Visitation	Indoor Visitation
Phase 1 In Outbreak status	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed All residents who are not in isolation or quarantine due to known or suspected COVID-19 infection or exposure	Prohibited Unless compassionate or end of life visits
Phase 2 No facility-onset cases in the last 14 days, not conducting outbreak testing, and county positivity rate is low or medium	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed All residents who are not in isolation or quarantine due to known or suspected COVID-19 infection or exposure	Allowed Following indoor visitation guidance per IDPH *If county positivity rates are high (>10%), indoor visits should only occur for compassionate care situations.
Phase 3 No facility-onset cases in the last 14 days, not conducting outbreak testing, and county positivity rate is low or medium	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed All residents who are not in isolation or quarantine due to known or suspected COVID-19 infection or exposure	Allowed Following indoor visitation guidance per IDPH *If county positivity rates are high (>10%), indoor visits should only occur for compassionate care situations.

CMS Memo: September 17th

Regardless of how visits are conducted, there are certain core principles and best practices that reduce the risk of COVID transmission:

- ❑ Screening

- ❑ Hand hygiene

- ❑ Face covering or mask

- ❑ Social distancing

- ❑ Instructional signage

- ❑ Cleaning and disinfection

- ❑ Appropriate use of PPE

- ❑ Effective cohorting of residents

- ❑ Resident and staff testing

CMS Memo: September 17th

- Nursing home can reasonably facilitate in-person visitation

- Except for on-going use of virtual visits, facilities may still restrict visitation due to:
  - COVID county positivity rate,
  - the facility's COVID-19 status,
  - a resident's COVID-19 status,
  - visitor symptoms,
  - lack of adherence to proper infection control practice, or
  - other relevant factors related to the COVID public health emergency.

- Facilities may not restrict visitation without a reasonable clinical or safety cause consistent with 483.10(f)(4)(v)

- Failure to facilitate visitation, without adequate reason related to clinical necessity or resident safety, would constitute a potential violation of 43 CFR 483.10(f)(4), and the facility would be subject to citation and enforcement actions.

FAQ from last week: Work Exclusion

- Q: What will be the recommended procedure for staff who may just have a common cold for returning to work?
  - A: CDC advises that any HCP who are ill should not work, regardless of the number of symptoms they may have or whether the suspicion is for COVID or another respiratory illness.
    - The symptoms of COVID19 are non-specific and milder cases can clinically mimic other upper and lower respiratory illnesses. These non-specific symptoms make it such that establishing definitive thresholds at which to exclude healthcare personnel and employees from long-term care facilities is not possible.

FAQ from last week

- Q:Any suggestions or updates for residents to be able to get hair care done? Are beauticians allowed to come in?

- If we report our POC test results to our local health department, do we need to be in the new Redcap portal?

Open Q&A

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

Please do not resubmit a single question multiple times

Slides and recording will be made available after the session.

Reminders

- 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

- NHSN Assistance
  - Contact Telligen: **nursinghome@telligen.com**