



Indiana
Department
of
Health

Long-term Care **NEWSLETTER**

LTC Newsletter 2021-38

August 6, 2021

LTC Update:

- **Adjusted Sequencing Process—Effective 8.9.21**
- **LTC Medical Director Toolkit**

Adjusted Sequencing Process—Effective 8.9.21

Due to the exponential increase in the number of cases and outbreaks, the Department of Health has received feedback that the current process is placing undue challenges on some aspects of the sequencing project.

Starting Monday, please follow the adjusted process as follows:

The sequencing project process will still start when a facility has three new cases, staff/resident/combined.

Line list for specimen collection completion day: The Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) will contact the facility to find out the details of the cases and vaccination status, provide line list to track specimen collection and answer any questions. The facility should:

- Plan to collect nasopharyngeal (NP) specimens from all residents and staff on the unit(s) where cases were identified.
- Complete the line list for specimen collection with details of all the individuals who will undergo NP specimen collection.
- Return the completed line list for specimen collection no later than 2:30 p.m. the same day. The specimen collection may be postponed a day if the line list is received late.

Please make sure to provide the contact information where the results are to be sent and be sure to fill out every field. Test kits/labels cannot be sent to the facility until complete line list is provided to IDOH.

Specimen collection day: The Indiana National Guard (INNG) will arrive with test kits and labels at the opening of the next business day. The facility should collect nasopharyngeal specimens, attach labels and plan to complete the collection preferably by 1PM and hand the specimens to INNG. INNG will need to deliver the specimens to the lab in Indianapolis by 4:30 p.m., so please consider the duration of drive to the lab while completing specimen collection. INNG will not make a second trip to pick up specimens on a different day, so the facility must have a plan to complete the specimen collection in a timely fashion.

The lab will test the specimens and release the results to the contact provided on the line list.

An outbreak is still defined as any single case, and outbreak testing using your current methods, such as point of care, should continue without any change. Restrictions related to excursions and visitation still apply whenever there is an outbreak.

This process replaces the guidance from the LTC Newsletter 2021- 34 on July 15.

Please email clinical questions to IDOH Medical Director for Long-term Care Shireesha Vuppalanchi, MD, at svuppalanchi@isdh.in.gov. Please send all other questions to StrikeTeamRequest@isdh.IN.gov.

LTC Medical Director Toolkit

Please see the attached toolkit with information, clickable links to use during your conversations with residents and families to encourage vaccination. Please share with the medical director at your facility so they may have it readily available for their interactions with residents.

[IDOH Medical Director Toolkit](#)