



Indiana
Department
of
Health

Long-term Care NEWSLETTER

LTC Newsletter 2022-03
Jan. 6, 2022

LTC Update:

- **Requesting Antivirals for COVID-19 Positive Residents – REMINDER**
- **Ordering testing supplies through Langham – UPDATE**
- **Conventional PPE usage - REMINDER**
- **CMS requirements for vaccination - REMINDER**
- **Staff testing - REMINDER**

Requesting Antivirals for COVID-19 Positive Residents – REMINDER

Indiana has received its first shipment of the two antiviral medications to receive emergency use authorization from the FDA, Paxlovid (Pfizer) and molnupiravir (Merck). The medications are used to treat mild to moderate COVID-19 in individuals who are at high risk for developing severe illness. If your facility identifies a resident who is [eligible](#) to receive either of these treatments, the facility should contact Probari at 317-804-4102 and provide the following information:

- Resident name and DOB
- Prescriber name and phone number
- Distance the facility is able to drive to pick up the medication
- Facility contact name and callback number

Probari will be available 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays AND 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Saturdays, to assist LTC facilities with locating treatment courses for eligible residents. ***These treatments are in very limited supply and require a prescription. A prescription does not guarantee the***

medication will be available. Facilities should review the resident's medical record for any contraindications and drug-drug interactions before calling Probari.

LTC pharmacies have also been notified about the process for requesting Probari's assistance in locating these medications. So, you may also reach out through your contracted pharmacy.

For more information, please refer to [LTC Newsletter 2022-01](#) sent Monday, Jan. 3.

Ordering testing supplies through Langham – UPDATE

Rapid tests continue to be very limited. At this time LTCFs are approved to order as many as 28 boxes of QuickVue Rapid (700 tests) a month. IDOH's current inventory for QuickVue is low, but facilities may continue to place orders. The IDOH has placed an order for ACON Flowflex Antigen tests to supplement QuickVue, but no deliveries have been received. There are plenty of PCR tests available through [Langham](#) for LTCFs that have a partner lab in place to process specimens. **At this time, all costs for rapid tests, PCR tests, and shipping are waived for LTCFs.**

We strongly encourage facilities to conduct daily inventory of testing supplies and place orders at least one week in advance. The standard turnaround for orders averages 5 days, but as demand increases the delivery timeframe expands to 7-10 days. Weather temperatures also impact delivery since test kit shipments cannot be left on a doorstep due to temperature excursions. If LTCFs are in immediate need of testing supplies, please reach out to your local health department or local hospital to see if they have supplies available.

Information for ordering testing supplies: [Instructions](#) and [Order Form](#)

Conventional PPE usage - REMINDER

With rising case trends, PPE requirements could be higher than usual. Facilities should follow the conventional method of PPE usage.

- Continue universal source controls with well-fitting face mask use by all HCP (medical grade) and visitors (cloth is acceptable) and eye protection for HCP when delivering care within 6 feet of the resident.
- HCP will wear a gown for each resident care in transmission-based precautions (TBP). PPE for TBP also includes an N95 respirator-mask, eye protection (face shield/or goggles that cover the top, bottom, sides of the eye, with no gaps), and gloves. Gowns and gloves should be changed after every resident encounter followed by hand hygiene.
- Refer to the [COVID-19 Infection Control SOP](#) for how to use gowns when crisis capacity is necessary noting that this is different by zones in how to re-use gowns if absolutely necessary.

- Facilities are strongly encouraged to check their PPE reserves regularly and restock as needed. Facilities are able to order PPE from [Langham](#) (regular shipping fees apply). Please note the transit times and place the orders accordingly.

CMS requirements for vaccination - REMINDER

With CMS memo, [QSO-21-19-NH](#), dated 5/11/21, requires long-term care facilities to educate and offer vaccination against COVID-19 to the residents and staff. The vaccine supplies are abundant and facilities must have a plan to offer the vaccine to new admissions, newly eligible residents and others who may have declined in the past but have requested to receive the vaccine.

Staff testing - REMINDER

Staff intervals for routine testing based on the level of transmission have not changed. Recent announcements that affect public testing at free testing sites across the state do not include the testing schedules for LTC staff at this point. Please remember to not test vaccinated staff unless they are symptomatic or have another indication, such as an outbreak, high risk exposure or travel. This will help with conservation of your testing supplies.

Testing Trigger	Staff	Residents
Symptomatic individual identified	Staff, <i>vaccinated and unvaccinated</i> , with signs or symptoms must be tested	Residents, <i>vaccinated and unvaccinated</i> , with signs or symptoms must be tested
Outbreak (Any new facility onset staff or resident case) Option 1 if facility can identify all close contacts; OR Option 2 if unable to contact trace	Option 1: Test all staff, vaccinated and unvaccinated, that had a higher-risk exposure with a COVID-19 positive individual. Option 2: Test all staff, vaccinated and unvaccinated, facility-wide or at a group level if staff are assigned to a specific location where the new case occurred [e.g., unit, floor, or other specific area(s) of the facility].	Options 1: Test all residents, vaccinated and unvaccinated, that had close contact with a COVID-19 positive individual. Option 2: Test all residents, vaccinated and unvaccinated, facility-wide or at a group level [e.g., unit, floor, or other specific area(s) of the facility].
Routine testing	According to the Table below	Not generally recommended

Level of COVID-19 community transmission	Minimum Testing Frequency of <i>Unvaccinated Staff*</i>
Low(blue)	Not recommended
Moderate (yellow)	Once a week*
Substantial (orange)	Twice a week*
High (red)	Twice a week*

*Vaccinated staff do not need to be routinely tested.

[CMS QSO 20-38 \(Updated 9.10.21\)](#)

[IDOH LTC Clinical Guidance \(Updated 01.04.22\)](#)