



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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State Health Commissioner

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DATE: June 30, 2020

TO: Licensed Skilled Nursing Care Facilities

FROM: Laurie Forlano, DO, MPH, Deputy Commissioner for Population Health

RE: Point Prevalence Surveys and Baseline Testing

On June 19, 2020, Governor Ralph Northam announced new guidelines and testing requirements for the reopening of long-term care facilities (LTCFs). Specifically, he outlined how the Commonwealth will direct \$246 million, primarily from the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding to support LTCFs in their response to COVID-19. Subsequently, the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) outlined reopening criteria for nursing facilities. These criteria include a recommendation that all such facilities conduct a baseline COVID-19 testing survey.

The VDH has partnered with the Virginia National Guard (VANG) to conduct one **baseline** facility-wide testing event per facility, also called Point Prevalence Surveys (PPS), at no charge to the facility, staff or residents. However, all such testing must be scheduled with the VANG no later than July 6, 2020. **To request such testing, please contact Lt. Col. Gregory Chew at gregory.chew@us.af.mil.**

PPS results can be used to inform various infection prevention decisions such as resident placement and cohorting, transmission-based precautions, and work exclusions for staff. For information on baseline testing and how it relates to the VDH Nursing Home Guidance for Phased Reopening, please visit the VDH website. Your local health department can support you in implementing such measures and serve as a resource for your facility.

Please take advantage of the opportunity to conduct a baseline PPS for your facility if you have not done so. We thank you in advance for your cooperation and diligence as we work together to limit the spread of COVID-19.