ISDH Long Term Care Newsletter Issue 2020-35 May 18, 2020

Today's Issue:

 Mandatory Testing of All Long Term Care Staff Survey – Complete & Submit by 05/20/2020 (COB)

On May 11th the White House set out the aspirational goal of testing all residents and staff in long-term care facilities. The Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) shares the goal of consistent and sustained testing of all long-term care staff. As a first step to accomplishing that we are exploring the challenges and feasibility of all staff at skilled nursing facilities getting tested over a two week period.

ISDH would like your feedback on how you would accomplish having all your staff (regardless of symptoms) tested in a two week period. Please have someone from your facility complete the following <u>survey</u>.

The survey takes only a couple of minutes to complete, but prior to taking it facilities should have an estimate of the total number of all staff working in the facility (e.g., CNAs, housekeeping, contract workers etc). In addition, they should discuss with their clinical staff on how they would accomplish getting all staff tested and what barriers might exist to achieving that. To help in this discussion a list of available testing sites around the state can be found at https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/2524.htm.

We would like responses back by COB on Wednesday, 5/20/2020. Please direct any questions you have regarding this to providers@ISDH.in.gov.

Thanks for your time and for the work you are doing to decrease the impact of COVID-19 on long-term staff and residents.