



Indiana
Department
of
Health

Long-term Care NEWSLETTER

LTC Newsletter 2022-40

Nov. 3, 2022

LTC Update:

- **Influenza-Associated Death and Outbreak Reporting – Reminder**

Influenza-Associated Death and Outbreak Reporting – Reminder

The start of influenza season is a good time for a reminder about influenza death reporting. The Indiana Communicable Disease Reporting (CDR) [Rule](#) mandates that influenza-associated deaths (at any age) must be reported to the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) within 72 hours. An excerpt of the Indiana CDR Rule, defines influenza-associated death as follows:

Sec. 44. "Influenza-associated death" means a human death in which an influenza diagnosis has been detected by one (1) or more of the following methods:

1. Commercial rapid antigen testing
2. Viral culture
3. Direct fluorescent antibody (DFA)
4. Indirect fluorescent antibody (IFA)
5. Enzyme immunoassay
6. Reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR)
7. Immunohistochemistry (IHC)
8. Listed anywhere on the death certificate as primary, secondary, or contributory cause of death

(Indiana Department of Health; [410 IAC 1-2.5-44](#))

Please keep in mind that it is not necessary for influenza to have been the primary cause of death to be reported as an influenza-associated death. You should report any case in which a person was found to have influenza A or B virus and where the virus may have contributed to the illness that resulted in death. Exceptions include unrelated deaths, such as those caused by injury. Influenza-associated deaths are reportable year-round, not just during influenza season.

LTCFs should also report any flu or influenza-like illness (ILI) outbreaks. An outbreak is defined as at least three residents with the same infection in one defined area (such as hall, unit, neighborhood, street, pod, secured unit, vent unit) in a 48-hour period or 10% or more of the current building census with the same infection.

Visit the [influenza webpage](#) for updated information, including weekly flu reports and a data dashboard. The website also has information specifically for long-term care facilities on managing influenza, including outbreak management and toolkits.

If you have any questions for reporting an influenza-associated death, please contact Influenza Coordinator Layne Mounsey at LMounsey@health.in.gov or 317-495-4115.