



**Indiana**  
Department  
of  
**Health**

## Long Term Care NEWSLETTER

**Issue 2020-58**  
**September 4, 2020**

### **LTC Update**

- Use of face shields or protective eyewear / goggles
- CMP – Communicative Technology Project Request
- New Reporting Mechanism for Lab Results Next Week

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### **CDC Update**

- Important Information on Antigen Testing

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## **Use of face shields or protective eyewear / goggles**

To align with updated Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines, Indiana Department of Health is now recommending the use of eye protection as a standard safety measure to protect long-term care healthcare personnel (HCP) who provide essential direct care within 6 feet of the resident, especially when doing procedures that lead to sprays and splashes.

This includes the delivery of care for non-COVID residents in facilities with 1 or more symptomatic and/or COVID positive residents, and those who are quarantined in COVID positive, symptomatic, or quarantined residents who are already in transmission-based precautions – Droplet – Contact. For facilities without COVID symptomatic and /or COVID positive residents, this is up to HCP should they wish to use this added protection.

Complete detailed information: [Long-term Care – Use of Face shields or protective eyewear / goggles.](#)

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## **CMP – Communicative Technology Project Request**

The Indiana Department of Health, Division of Long Term Care has approved approximately 340 facility applications for the Civil Money Penalty (CMP) COVID-19 Communicative Technology Project. This

project enables nursing homes to purchase communicative devices and accessories so residents can have virtual social and telehealth visits. The COVID-19 pandemic has been extremely difficult and stressful for all LTC residents and staff. These devices will allow for communication and virtual visits with families and healthcare providers.

Facilities that have not applied for funding are encouraged to submit an application [CMP COVID -19 Communicative Technology Project Request](#) and email to [nadams1@isdh.in.gov](mailto:nadams1@isdh.in.gov).

Indiana Department of Health thanks all of Indiana's long-term care healthcare providers and staff for their continued dedication and commitment to the Hoosiers in their care.

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## New Reporting Mechanism for Lab Results Next Week

Next week, the state health department will begin collecting all positive and negative COVID-19 lab results from the CMS-delivered point-of-care antigen testing machines (i.e., Quidel Sofia SARA Antigen FIA, BD Veritor System for Rapid Detection of SARS- CoV-2). This reporting through a second, additional Redcap form will satisfy CLIA reporting requirements, and will ensure that the state health department of captures laboratory information in a timely manner.

The new mechanism is not quite ready but will be soon, and we expect to provide details and instructions early next week. Until that happens, please hold all point-of-care lab results to be reported after the new mechanism is up and running. (Please note: This hold request applies only to reporting of lab results. Please continue to report your total COVID-19 resident and staff events in the existing REDCap Long Term Care COVID-19 Reporting form, including those who test positive from your point-of-care machines.)

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## Indiana Person Directed Care Coalition Workshop

### Psychosocial Well-Being of Long Term Care Residents during COVID-19

The Indiana Person Directed Care Coalition (IPDCC) is proud to resume its quarterly workshops, but with a COVID-19 twist! This quarter, the workshop will be offered via a virtual meeting platform and will be slightly abbreviated. Please join us as we discuss psychosocial and regulatory considerations for those living in long term care environments during the time of COVID-19. Care considerations will be provided for those residents who are cognitively intact as well as for those living with diagnoses related to Alzheimer's disease and related forms of dementia.

COVID-19 has changed how we do business. We now encourage the use of masks for everyone, social distancing, and avoid gathering of large groups. The data is overwhelming as it relates to the physical impacts of COVID-19, but what about the mental and social implications. This workshop will provide some helpful tools on how to address the emotional well-being of residents, guidance from the National Alzheimer's Association and the Indiana Department of Health. Please join us for this virtual event to help address resident needs.

**Date:** Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2020

**Time:** 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. EDT

**Presenters:**

Natalie Sutton and Stephanie Laskey - Alzheimer's Association Greater Indiana Chapter

Melanie Perry - American Senior Communities

Tammy Alley and Jan Kulik - Indiana Department of Health

[Register Here](#)

Once registered, you will receive a follow-up email with the Zoom link that will allow you to join the workshop.

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## Important Information on Antigen Testing

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) have published helpful information on COVID-19 antigen testing in nursing homes. We urge each facility to review this information as linked below, especially the first item.

[CDC: Antigen Testing Interpretation Guide](#)

[CDC: Considerations for Use of Antigen Testing in Nursing Homes](#)

[CMS: Antigen Testing for Asymptomatic Individuals & CLIA Citation](#)

*From the document linked above: "CMS will temporarily exercise enforcement discretion for the duration of the COVID-19 public health emergency under CLIA for the use of SARS-CoV-2 POC antigen tests on asymptomatic individuals. Specifically, CMS will not cite facilities with a CLIA Certificate of Waiver when SARS-CoV-2 POC antigen tests are performed on asymptomatic individuals, as described in the FDA FAQ."*

[CDC: Interim Guidance for Rapid Antigen Testing](#)