

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Deidre S. Gifford, MD, MPH
Acting Commissioner



Ned Lamont
Governor
Susan Bysiewicz
Lt. Governor

HEALTHCARE QUALITY AND SAFETY BRANCH

BLAST FAX 2020-107

TO: All Nursing Homes

FROM: Commissioner Deidre S. Gifford, MD, MPH

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Deidre S. Gifford".

CC: Deputy Commissioner Heather Aaron, MPH, LNHA
Adelita Orefice, MPM, JD, CHC, Senior Advisor to the Commissioner
Barbara Cass, RN., Branch Chief, Healthcare Quality and Safety Branch
Donna Ortelle, Section Chief, Facility Licensing and Investigations Section
Vivian Leung, MD, HAI & Antimicrobial Resistance Program Coordinator

DATE: November 16, 2020

SUBJECT: LTC COVID-19 Daily Reporting System

Attached for your attention is:

- Connecticut Long-Term Care Facility COVID-19 Daily Reporting System: Updates to collect additional testing information on residents and staff.



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CT Long-Term Care Facility COVID-19 Daily Reporting System Updates to collect additional testing information on residents and staff November 13, 2020

On **Monday, November 16, 2020**, when you log into the FLIS portal (at dphflisevents.ct.gov) you will see changes to the CT Long-Term Care Facility COVID-19 Daily Reporting System. Thank you for your patience as we continue to modify the portal to improve the usefulness of the data collected in an ever-changing COVID-19 landscape.

The changes reflect the need to:

1. Identify NHs with suspect and positive staff in a timely manner.
2. Capture residents and staff testing positive using in-house point-of-care antigen test machines and facilitate case reporting to DPH.
3. Identify residents with presumed/suspect reinfections (test positive >90 days since first positive test result) for subsequent CDC studies.
4. Provide one data entry platform for both COVID-19 positive and COVID-19 free facilities.

1. Daily collection of suspect and positive staff testing information to allow for more timely detection of COVID-19 in nursing homes.

Question 1 will now ask you to provide the number of pending Covid-19 laboratory test results for residents and staff in your facility. Nursing home staff and personnel (referred to collectively as 'staff') include anyone working or volunteering in the facility, such as contractors, temporary staff, resident care givers, shared staff, etc. This definition is consistent with the reporting requirement for NHSN. This and subsequent portal questions in section 3 have been updated to reflect NHSN resident and staff questions. Collecting this information on a daily basis allows DPH to respond rapidly to facilities with positive resident and staff cases.

2. Residents testing positive using point-of-care antigen machines can now be added to the resident line list, fulfilling case reporting requirements (for positive residents only) to DPH. Aggregate case counts of residents and staff testing positive using point-of-care antigen machines will be collected daily.

The resident line list in Section 2 has been updated to allow for reporting of residents with both laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 by PCR and by point-of-care antigen tests. The addition of new laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 positive residents by either test method will continue to fulfill the reporting requirement for the COVID-19 Case Report Form. Please report all resident positive



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antigen test results, *even if confirmatory RT-PCR result is negative*. There are additional questions in the line list to capture PCR confirmatory test results when performed.

Section 3 is updated to include daily submission of case counts for staff and residents testing antigen positive using point-of-care testing machines. Aggregate case counts are for the previous day (yesterday) and each new resident or staff test result is reported only once.

Reporting all antigen testing results (positives AND negatives) to NHSN is still required.

3. Residents testing positive more than 90 days after their first COVID-19 test result should be entered in the resident line list.

We are requesting that you enter all residents who test positive for COVID-19 by RT-PCR or antigen test more than 90 days after their first positive test on the line list in Section 2. A check box is available to indicate if the resident's test is 'new' or 'greater than 90 days'.

DPH is participating in a CDC-sponsored project to assess if these possible re-infections lead to ongoing transmission within a facility and to describe the frequency and clinical and demographic characteristics of possible re-infections among nursing home residents. Addition of the '>90 day' check box facilitates identification of residents for this important project.

4. All facilities will now be completing questions about both resident and staff testing.

Until now, facilities that did not have any residents testing positive for COVID-19 (previously referred to as COVID-19 free facilities) were not asked about the number of pending or confirmed COVID-19 tests among staff and residents. However, now all facilities will be asked these questions in Section 3 of the portal. In addition, all facilities will be asked about new outbreaks of COVID-19 which is defined as "the first case ever or first case in staff or resident > 28 days".

For any questions, please submit a ticket online at <https://dph-cthelpdesk.ct.gov/Ticket>