

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



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HEALTHCARE QUALITY AND SAFETY BRANCH

BLAST FAX 2020-58

TO: Nursing Home Administrators

FROM: Commissioner Deidre S. Gifford, MD, MPH

CC: Deputy Commissioner Heather Aaron, MPH, LNHA
Barbara Cass, RN., Branch Chief, Healthcare Quality and Safety Branch
Donna Ortelle, Section Chief, Facility Licensing and Investigations Section

DATE: May 22, 2020

SUBJECT: Survey Monkey

On May 18, 2020, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released a memorandum from the Quality Safety and Oversight Group, No. 20-30, Nursing Homes, that addresses "Nursing Home Reopening Recommendations for State and Local Officials." The recommendations in part, speak to nursing home resident and employee COVID-19 testing with recommendations for testing and the frequency of testing.

As you are aware, the Department is actively working with nursing homes on Point Prevalence Surveys (PPS) to ensure that each resident, who has not tested positive for COVID-19, has testing done to determine if they have or have not been infected with the virus. A point prevalence survey is an important tool, which through laboratory testing will determine a resident's COVID status. The results of the PPS will assist in decision making to determine additional mitigation measures that may be required to manage the incidence of the virus.

A significant element of this testing strategy includes testing healthcare facility employees. However, when testing employees, there are several additional elements that need to be assessed prior to testing, e.g. who is the ordering physician, notification to the employee, and development of staffing plans should the results identify a high rate of positivity.



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As plans are made to conduct healthcare employee COVID 19 testing, it would be very helpful if we had an understanding and baseline of what work has already been started. A survey has been created in survey monkey at the following link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KRNH9ND>

Please take a few moments to respond to the short survey. Your responses are informative as we move forward with the testing plan. Please respond to the survey by May 26, 2020. Thank you for any consideration that you give to this request.