

from MDH Epidemiology to everyone: 12:20 PM

Good afternoon everyone! Thank you for joining the webinar today. For anyone calling in please ensure your phones and computers are on mute. You may post any questions or comments you have in the chat box.

to Angela Bond RN VP (privately): 12:25 PM

Please ensure your phone and computer remains on mute

from Phyllis Eiring to everyone: 12:31 PM

Is cohorting of residents on observation permitted?

to Dneibert (privately): 12:32 PM

Please ensure your phones and computer remains on mute

from aking to everyone: 12:34 PM

We are a very small facility (3 halls) and most of our staff have to work together on all 3 halls for breaks and must rotate to cover days off etc. Can we rotate staff between the halls to prevent our staff getting burned out on the harder halls?

from Layg to everyone: 12:34 PM

Despite when a facility is in outbreak status how appropriate is it for residents to have small group meetings masked, socially distanced, and monitored by staff? thanks

from OchungE to everyone: 12:35 PM

Can we limit or stop room visits for Support Persons while under outbreak within a longterm care facility?

from Jim Jarboe to everyone: 12:35 PM

Please clarify indoor visitation restriction for new admits under 14-day observation - We can restrict visits for residents on transmission-based precautions (droplet and contact) except for compassionate care visits? Correct?

from Akiva Slepoy to everyone: 12:36 PM

I sent multiple emails to NHSN support and to SAMS support requesting invitation to SAMS portal so i can register my facility in the vaccination program as mandated by MDH....no response! What else can i do???

from Chad Golden to everyone: 12:36 PM

I'm curious if anyone who actually works in a facility is consulted or is involved in the decision making process

from Ruthie to everyone: 12:38 PM

Are any ALF considering or doing POC for visitors or requiring them to show proof of a negative covid test prior to indoor visits? Curious if so and how it is going

from Amie Denayer to everyone: 12:39 PM

as an ALF we are not requiring testing for visitors.

from Layg to everyone: 12:39 PM

goggles versus face shield when serving resident food trays and/or while feeding? your thoughts...  
thanks

from michelle mahn to everyone: 12:41 PM

how can we predetermine 30 or 60 day stockpile without knowing the scope of a possible outbreak . . .

from andrea dwyer to everyone: 12:41 PM

It does not say to the extent possible - it say NH staff are mandated to vaccinate. It say we are required to notify MD DOH of staff that do not vaccinate. It gives no direction as to how we inform MD DOH. and it gives no indication of how we will be surveyd by OHCQ on the matter.

from Layg to everyone: 12:41 PM

still not clear regarding POC testing to both NHSN and CRISP???? also NHSN recently changed dates for training regarding POC reporting. How will financial penalties be assessed.

from Jay Lee to everyone: 12:41 PM

Can ALF allow hairstylist? Any prerequisites for them?

from Layg to everyone: 12:42 PM

The previous question on POC is regarding Reporting

from Melissa to everyone: 12:42 PM

Are all staff required to get a flu vaccine? What if they have a religious or medical exemption, or choose not to?

from Nicole Daniels to everyone: 12:42 PM

andrea- it cites the Employee Health Program section of COMAR- which states that those who refuse must have a signed waiver on file at the facility-and this should be documented that they were educated.

from Robin King to everyone: 12:43 PM

Is it safe to use nebs

from WMHC User to everyone: 12:43 PM

Considering genetic drift etc. will vaccinations likely become anual like Flu?

from Nicole Daniels to everyone: 12:43 PM

it is not mandated- it is mandated that they receive vaccine or have signed declination - you cannot mandate - this violates ethics and rights per religious and medical contraindications.

from Melissa to everyone: 12:44 PM

Do they need to show any documentation or just sign the waiver? What if they have personal reasons?

from Wes Street to everyone: 12:46 PM

What is the guidance or expectation for an employee that works in two communities and one of those communities have positive cases. Should they refrain from working in the other community that has no positive case and if so how long?

from andrea dwyer to everyone: 12:46 PM

Nicole- This is in accordance with the October 27, 2020, Maryland Department of Health Update from Secretary Neall, advising that all nursing home staff are required to receive an annual seasonal influenza vaccination, by December 31, 2020, unless excused by MD HEALTH GENERAL § 18-404(e) and COMAR 10.07.02.34(E)(1)(a)-(c).

from Nicole Daniels to everyone: 12:47 PM

they can personally refuse also... look at COMAR reg section regarding employee health program. That is what is referenced in the latest release letter.

from msant793832 to everyone: 12:47 PM

Regarding the 30 days of PPE stockpile, our medical supplier has cancelled our orders for gowns routinely for months now. We have only been getting gowns from corporate and the emergency hotline. Currently, the facility is using about 200 gowns a day. Where/who do you suggest we contact to grow our supply so we have a 30-60 day stockpile?

from Nicole Daniels to everyone: 12:47 PM

yes the comar reg you attached above- says the excusions are what I just listed-

from WMHC User to everyone: 12:47 PM

curious that Nurses are more frequently hospitalized tha Aides....any thoughts on why tht might be at this point?

from Nicole Daniels to everyone: 12:48 PM

so facilities must vaccinate unless the person declines and has been educated- then that must be documented on a waiver form

from CHarrington to everyone: 12:48 PM

CMS data is behind by at least 1 week of what is actually in the county why are we not using the MD covid website which is updated daily and taking a weekly average or going with the direction of local health department -- if CMS and local health dept do not agree making the decision with infromation

from local health department may be preferable - since managing spread is closely related to what is current in county - please advise....

from ngachot to everyone: 12:48 PM

Are facilities still able to offer visitation after you begin to admit positive COVID patients?

from Leslie Ray to everyone: 12:49 PM

in AL's we have been told we are mandated to use the Rapid Test process for our weekly testing. And it was communicated last week to all AL providers. Is this so? where is that mandate? We are testing weekly just not with the rapid test but with the POC method

from Phyllis Eiring to everyone: 12:50 PM

Will NHSN reporting replace the CRISP reporting?

from CCRE to everyone: 12:50 PM

DHMH mandates the flu vaccine for all of its health care workers (except for religious or medical reasons), however, COMAR 10.07.02 gives employees an "out" as long as they have been educated. Why such a significant difference?

from msant793832 to everyone: 12:50 PM

We are still awaiting our Grid Card for NHSN to advance our clearance from Lvl1 to Lvl3. We need that grid card to apply for the pharmacy partnership through NHSN. What happens if we haven't received our card by the cut off date and are unable to sign up?

from Therese Gayhardt to everyone: 12:51 PM

POC rapid test was not approved or designed for routine testing. The false positive rates are high. Quidel said they never trialed asymptomatic people just symptomatic. Why would we use this test then?

from John Njonjo to everyone: 12:51 PM

Does the MDH have a centralized and chronological repository (website) of all the recommendations/guidance they have provided overtime for LTC facilities since the outbreak began (we do get the emails for the individual updates).

from PN (privately): 12:51 PM

Residents who receive visitors regularly (Hospice), Do they need to be tested weekly regardless of outbreak status?

from Nicole Daniels to everyone: 12:52 PM

I agree a clarification needs to be sent. LTC facilities will lose employees if we mandate vaccination to persons who do not want to get the vaccine. We cannot afford to lose staff.

from Julie Deppe to everyone: 12:52 PM

NHAs, ALMs and ICPs, please check your email from julie.deppe@maryland.gov dated 10/28 (NH) and 10/29 (AL) for information regarding the staff influenza vaccination requirements and documentation necessary. Email contains a declination form. MHCC will coordinate with DOH to get NH documentation after December 31, 2020.

from Shavonne Brooks-Lindsay to everyone: 12:54 PM

Hello if someone tested positive with a Rapid test and was moved to quarantine unit awaiting results from CIAN. If the CIAN results are negative can the resident move back to the population or stay for the whole 14 days in quarantine

from Therese Gayhardt to everyone: 12:57 PM

I called Quidel corporation. The number provided for tech support. They informed me that they never trialed the machine on asymptomatic persons and it was not designed for surveillance testing.

from Peggy Pass to everyone: 12:59 PM

When you talk about the supply of N95 masks I am concerned about the reuse of these N95s during this pandemic. Conventional use dictates that N95s should be discarded when the mask is taken off-such as bathroom breaks, meal, etc. In fact, most facilities are using N95s longer than they were originally designed to be used. CDC even has a website discussion on extended use being better than repeated use-such as taking it off and later putting it on for use multiple times during a shift. What is the states position regarding this supply issue of N95s?

from jbethea to everyone: 1:00 PM

Can non AOU staff provide care for AOU residents?

from Kevin Heffner to everyone: 1:01 PM

LifeSpan (in partnership with LeadingAge Maryland and HFAM) has PPE in quantity available for stockpiling within just a few days. PPE in smaller quantities is available almost immediately through local suppliers (all certified), and can be picked up at LifeSpan's offices in Columbia. For stockpiling purposes, with MDH approval, the local suppliers can store PPE and make it available to facilities with facility-specific keycard access 24/7. Pricing is extremely competitive. To inquire about PPE availability, just send an email to [apbeacon@lifespan-network.org](mailto:apbeacon@lifespan-network.org).

from Karyna Balbuena to everyone: 1:02 PM

If a resident goes out during the holidays; would you test them upon return? put them on observation?

from MDH Epidemiology to everyone: 1:03 PM

Residents who receive visitors regularly (Hospice ),Do they need be tested weekly regardless of outbreak status ?

from wwadd to everyone: 1:03 PM

Can residents quarantine for 14 days in their original rooms if they leave for drs. appointment, family visits or hospitalizations?

from Jsmith to everyone: 1:05 PM

Please explain the guidelines for Compassionate Care visits in assisted living if a resident is not on hospice.

from wwadd to everyone: 1:09 PM

Do you think we will have mandatory COVID-19 vaccine for hcw's?

from davlord to everyone: 1:09 PM

Can new admissions on 14 day observation/isolation have outside visits? I thought I heard you say "no" but not sure.

from PN (privately): 1:10 PM

What about if Flu vaccine is considered as condition of employment policy ?

from MDH Epidemiology to everyone: 1:11 PM

What about if Flu vaccine is considered as condition of employment policy ?

from Leslie Ray to everyone: 1:14 PM

We are an AL and were told today by an infection control team who came into our community that we were mandated to use the Rapid Test as our weekly tests - is that mandated? We test weekly but use the PCR tests with a state approved lab

from TU Laniyonu to everyone: 1:14 PM

if a facility is outside the outbreak, is it necessary to use gowns for each resident

from Seong Ko to everyone: 1:14 PM

staff that test positive for covid, should we continue to exempt them from weekly testing for 90 days ?

from Seong Ko to everyone: 1:15 PM

as long as they remain asymptomatic

from Wes Street to everyone: 1:16 PM

Is there any consideration to opening communal dining up for more residents to eat together to help in their social well being?

from Phyllis Eiring to everyone: 1:17 PM

Local Health Dept directed us that we can allow outdoor visits even though we are in an outbreak. I read the CMS information to say no visits are allowed when in outbreak.

from Jason Simanowitz to everyone: 1:19 PM

will there be more specific guidance as to what is mandated under the 30 day ppe supply as well as is it a full 30 day supply extra besides what we use per month

from Layg to everyone: 1:19 PM

Asymptomatic PCR COVID+ staff still need the 10 days before returning to work; 90 days before retesting

from CCRE to everyone: 1:20 PM

Local health departments are giving directives that directly contradict the CMS guidance. Who should we listen to? who is communicating with them?

from DBlythe to everyone: 1:22 PM

atalog of the orders, go to the following URL:

from DBlythe to everyone: 1:22 PM

<https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/pages/cdc-resources>

from DBlythe to everyone: 1:23 PM

Look under the "Maryland Department of Health" section

from Tara Simpkins to everyone: 1:26 PM

N95 are only to be worn with nebulizer or airborne correct not on observation unit

from pgoff to everyone: 1:28 PM

For anyone we put on observation for going out to celebrate the holiday, effectively choosing to quarantine upon return, can we charge them for the extra PPE required for observation?

from michelle mahn to everyone: 1:30 PM

PER CDC guidelines, is the PPE inventory based on a standard, contingency, or crisis management situation?

from MIMI ARYEETAY to everyone: 1:36 PM

Currently, residents on rehab load only go to the rehab on one on one basis at the gym, can the rehab start taking 2 or 3 patients at a time, while maintaining social distancing and wearing their masks.?

from Taylor to everyone: 1:36 PM

Just want to confirm any new admission can not have an indoor or outdoor visitation until they have completed their 14day observation.