

### LTC Facilities

1. DAIL continues to have at least one representative on daily "HOPR" (Health Outbreak Prevention & Response) calls with VDH and facilities experiencing positive COVID results. This assures that providers feel supported and that we can have a rapid response to staffing, PPE and supply needs. These calls occur multiple times per day as a facility moves through the testing protocol towards full negative results.
2. DAIL facilitated a great technical assistance call VDH and LTC facilities regarding COVID-19 infection control and best practices.
3. DAIL responded to a concern from the LTC Ombudsman in central Vermont about volunteers in nursing facilities. DAIL explained that the reason for using volunteers is the staffing shortage caused by the pandemic. The challenge is keeping folks with dementia confined to their rooms in order to safely isolate/quarantine residents in accordance with VDH/CDC guidelines. Normally, these folks are able to "wander about" within their secure unit, participate in group activities, and go to the dining room for congregate meals. This is no longer possible when isolation/quarantine requirements become necessary. Their sometimes-challenging behaviors can make confinement to their room very upsetting. The "volunteers" are actually medical workers, providing "care" in the form of diversional activities. In doing so, they are preventing further spread of the virus. Facilities can choose to administer POC tests upon the volunteer's arrival, and/or roll them into any facility wide testing events.
4. All nursing facilities have voluntarily chosen to pause visitation due to the recent surge of C19 cases.
5. DAIL is finalizing a communication to all nursing facilities about distribution of federally supplied BiNax Now cards for "do it yourself" antigen tests. To use the tests, facilities must participate in training this week and obtain CLEA certification which is necessary for administering the tests. Nursing facilities will use the tests daily for all staff coming to work. Other LTC facilities will use them for people who are symptomatic.
6. VDH is rolling out vaccines for LTC facilities starting 12/21/20 at the earliest. Then a plan will be finalized for community-based healthcare workers.

### PPE

1. DAIL purchased fit testing kits and members of the LTC COVID Team are training to be fit testers. They will be able to fit test DAIL staff who use N95's at work and be emergency backup to the current available fit test resources.
2. The DAIL LTC COVID team continues to evaluate the PPE needs of providers and advocate for situational needs of providers. For example, non-PPE supplies are in demand for items such as tray tables and commodes when a facility has an outbreak.

### Adult Day

1. Services are suspended.
2. ASD is working on alternative ways to pay for remote, group services. We hope to engage in payment/delivery reform when the dust settles on COVID.

### CRF

1. DAIL finalized a \$700K CRF grant payments to DA/SSAs for family stipends.
2. DAIL finalized a \$375K CRF grant to Burlington Health & Rehab for them to hire traveling staff and specialty staff to transition patients out of UVMHC who no longer need to be there are who require nursing home level of care. This is intended to help with hospital flow to free up beds during the COVID surge.
3. DAILY finalized a \$25K CRF grant to a Residential Care Home experiencing an outbreak who needed to purchase emergency staffing, supplies and meal services.
4. DAIL has identified backup staffing in LTC facilities as one of the top challenges during the pandemic. Though the current protocol has worked for one case at a time, it has become clear that a more

sustainable model is needed. DAIL's Director of Operations Monica White worked with the DAIL LTC COVID team to research emergency staffing plans in other states and identified a hiring pool model that Minnesota that may work well for Vermont. The proposal is being finalized and funding identified for contracted on-call staff.

#### Other

1. DAIL finalized a confidential employee survey designed to offer staff an opportunity to share what is working and what is not working for them. The survey ended 12/2 with almost 50% response rate. Results will be used by management to gauge employees' needs during the pandemic and beyond.
2. DAIL announced information about a new collaboration with VDOL to help Vermonters recruit caregiver staff. Independent Direct Support Workers and self-directed employers may now use VDOL's ["JobLink"](#) platform.