

Megan's Updates notes for 9/10/20 DAB

Reopening Plans:

1. LTC Facilities: DAIL launched final plan for further easing of restrictions for LTC Facilities which was announced 7/14/20. DAIL is very thankful to the VDH team and provider stakeholders who worked diligently to create the plan. LTC Facilities are reporting to DAIL Survey & Certification as they start moving into phase 2 and 3 of the facility reopening plan. Now, VDH and DAIL are exploring ways to support essential family caregivers to have a more active, close contact caregiver role in the facility, while maintaining infection control.
2. Senior Centers: DAIL distributed a revised FAQ for Senior Centers that was created with input from VDH. Barriers most identified to reopening include the requirements around space/distancing and the need for more staff/volunteers to do screenings, coordination, cleaning required. Most small centers are volunteer based and lack adequate space.
3. DS Providers: Slowly restarting services. DAIL is worked with DS providers to revert to pre-COVID payment model.
4. Adult Day: The reopening guidance document was completed and the Adult Day provider all completed readiness self-assessments. The self-assessments showed that about 83% (10 out of 12 providers) appear prepared to reopen. All providers will need to reduce census by an average of about 50%, which will require continued CRF support to reopen.
5. DAIL: ASD is implementing a protocol for the limited restart of staff in-person clinical visits with LTCCCs starting 9/1/20.

PPE:

1. DAIL completed a delivery of approximately 70,000 masks to providers on behalf of consumers who need them.
2. Masks now available at local Fire Stations.
3. DAIL sent two surveys on behalf of SEOC to LTC facilities on the use of Powered Air Purifying Respirators (PAPR) and reusable N95 masks as an alternative to standard N95 respirators. The surveys will help the SEOC assess the benefits and determine interest for use with LTC facilities and the state's capacity to support these options.
4. DAIL communicated with partner agencies to distribute available remaining 100 no-touch infrared thermometers leftover from the original distribution.
5. DAIL is working with the SEOC on the feasibility of purchasing N95 fit test kits for facilities/provider partners to obtain, for those who missed the initial state-facilitated ATC fit test opportunity this summer.
6. The national Supply Chain Task Force reported a plan to send a supply of N95 masks to nursing facilities that have reported a 0-3 day supply of respirators through the CDC National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN). DAIL is working with the SEOC to confirm details.

Testing:

1. DAIL participated in conversations with UVMCC and VDH about how to manage testing for people that have "persistent" or "intermittent" positive tests. After discussing the

science and evidence, there may be an opportunity to update testing guidance for people who have previously tested positive.

2. VDH coordinated universal testing with 19 nursing facilities through “Broad Laboratories” in August. This effort will bring all facilities up to baseline for moving into reopening phases.
3. DAIL is working with VDH and AHS to address the cost of testing for LTC facilities that are required to test as part of the reopening plan and new CMS requirements that recently came out. There is a possible opportunity to work through a vendor with state coordinated CRF support.
4. DAIL has scheduled a nursing home call for Friday 9/11 at 1pm to discuss the new CMS testing requirements.
5. DAIL will be meeting with VDH and SEOC next week to discuss the antigen testing kits from the Federal government (to be shipped ~9/30) to determine what guidance Vermont may need to put forth on this topic.
6. DAIL and VDH are coordinating testing needs for home health agency staff and for people on hospice in nursing facilities.

Funding:

1. Healthcare stabilization - DAIL worked with DVHA to coordinate technical assistance completing the new healthcare stabilization application form.
2. Hazard Pay – DAIL provided support to DVHA in answering questions from applicants.
3. CRF
 - Skinny Budget Adult Day = \$2.45M, VABVI = \$100K
 - Separate Request for Senior Centers = \$600K
 - SFY21 Restated Budget proposed Adult Day \$2M and Senior Centers \$565K Based on nutrition adequacy report submitted 8/18/20.

Misc:

1. Conor O’Dea started as the new State Unit on Aging Director, taking over for Angela Smith-Dieng.