

May 11, 2020

To Skilled Nursing Facilities,

The Vermont Department of Health and Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living continue to work together to support your work in protecting some of Vermont's most vulnerable populations. The Health Department has recently updated the optional Enhanced Interventions to Prevent SARS-CoV-2 Transmission in Vermont Skilled Nursing Facilities.

A summary of the updates as of May 11, 2020 are as follows:

- A limited number of nares swabs are now available through the Vermont Department of Health Lab. These swabs will be prioritized based on availability to SNFs implementing these optional enhanced interventions.
- The Vermont Department of Health is available to provide assistance with facility-wide testing as needed. Based on availability, highest priority testing will be for initial testing and day 3 testing for Scenario B.
- In alignment with the CDC, returning to work and discontinuing transmission-based precautions can be done with either test-based strategies or symptom or time-based strategies.
- For new and returning residents on quarantine, final testing can be done on day 13 to allow for results on day 14. Residents should still be quarantined until negative test results return and through day 14.

The Health Department will host a follow-up call for questions and feedback on Thursday, May 14th from 3:30-4:30pm.

Call in information: 1 (802) 828-7228 Conference ID: 7274387#

Join online: [Join Skype Meeting](#)

Representatives from DAAL's Division of Licensing and Protection will also be available to address any concerns related to licensing and these interventions.

Please note that this protocol is not considered to be an official recommendation or requirement and therefore will not be subject to enforcement by the Vermont State Survey Agency.

