



ALEXANDRIA HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Communicable Disease Divisor

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October 28, 2020 - HEALTH UPDATE 23 – COVID-19 Infection Control for Health Care Personnel; Expanded contact definition; Department of Labor and Industry (DOLI) Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS) Reporting; COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Intent Letter Forward

Dear Partners in Health,

Alexandria Health Department recently published surveillance data (shown below) on potential sources of COVID-19 infection among cases in our community.

Alexandria Possible COVID-19 Exposures



Cases interviewed between September 21- October 19, 2020

Chart: Alexandria Health Department • Created with Datawrapper

Note: 422 cases were interviewed for activities recalled in the 14 days prior to COVID-19 diagnosis. Individuals could have identified more than one possible source of infection. Link to article: https://www.alexandriava.gov/news_display.aspx?id=118523

Given the surveillance results and trends noted during case investigations, we want to stress the following:

- **Please remind your staff that physical distancing and mask use apply not only between self and patients, but also among co-workers during working hours, during breaks, and outside of work.**
 - Health care personnel (HCP) also need to be mindful of these public health precautions in their social/personal lives in order to prevent transmission in the workplace.
- Have a liberal sick leave policy that eliminates staff's perceived barriers to staying home when ill. Communicate your sick leave policy to your staff frequently. This helps to protect both patients and other staff members from potential exposures to COVID-19 from a HCP.
- While a 14-day quarantine of contacts to COVID-19 (or after high-risk activity during travel or social gathering) is preferable, critical infrastructure workers may be asked to continue working (with **strict** six-foot physical distancing, consistent mask use, and regular symptom monitoring) if staffing shortages occur. However, they will still need to quarantine at home and in the community.
- Remember, contacts **cannot "test out of quarantine,"** given that the incubation period for SARS-CoV-2 is up to 14 days. Negatives test results for asymptomatic contacts performed within the first week after exposure may be unreliable. Rather, testing of asymptomatic contacts performed after 7-10 days is for identifying positive cases early

Recent Expansion of Close Contact Definition

The CDC close contact definition of was extended to refer to an exposure within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 or more minutes in a 24-hour period starting from 2 days before illness onset (or for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to test specimen collection) until the patient is isolated. However, **any duration** should be considered prolonged if the exposure occurs during performance of an [aerosol-generating procedure](#), or after having unprotected direct contact with infectious secretions or excretions of the person with confirmed COVID-19.

Department of Labor and Industry (DOLI) Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS) for Workplaces ***Including Healthcare Facilities and Pharmacies***

- According to DOLI ETS ([16 VAC 25-220-40.B.8.d & e](#)), employers shall notify the Virginia Department of Health within 24 hours of the discovery of one or more employees **testing positive for SARS-CoV-2 virus** and the Virginia Department of Labor and Industry within 24 hours of the discovery of three (3) or more employees present at the place of employment within a 14-day period testing positive for SARS-CoV-2 virus during that 14-day time period:
 - VDH-DOLI Reporting can be completed using the following VDH portal link:
<https://redcap.vdh.virginia.gov/redcap/surveys/?s=LRHNP89XPK>

Note: This information will be transferred from VDH to your local health department for follow-up.

COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Intent

Interested providers (including pharmacies) or facilities can complete the form below to indicate intent to administer COVID-19 vaccine to patients and/or staff. Information collected will allow VDH to set up necessary accounts for vaccine ordering and reporting. To submit your intent to administer COVID-19 vaccine, please visit: <https://apps.vdh.virginia.gov/VERIP/Home.aspx> and click the link to complete the COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Intent Form. Details are included in the Virginia Health Commissioner letter attached.

For more information on COVID-19 visit:

www.cdc.gov/coronavirus

<https://www.alexandriava.gov/Health>

<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/surveillance-and-investigation/novel-coronavirus/>

Thank you for all that you do to protect and promote the health and well-being of our community.

Sincerely,



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Medical Director
Alexandria Health Department



Anne Gaddy, MD, MPH
Deputy Health Director
Alexandria Health Department



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Health

M. NORMAN OLIVER, MD, MA
STATE HEALTH COMMISSIONER

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COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Intent

October 02, 2020

Dear Colleague:

The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) has begun diligently planning for the possibility of COVID-19 vaccination. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has notified us that if vaccine manufacturers are successful in developing a safe, effective COVID-19 vaccine, distribution and administration could begin in the coming months. VDH has the health and safety of Virginians as its number one priority. We will ensure any COVID-19 vaccine is distributed equitably and to those who most need it. This includes implementing a registration system to allow facilities to identify anticipated need for vaccine, including an estimate of the population they serve by risk factor. This data will be used to prioritize vaccine shipments in accordance with CDC recommendations.

Nationwide distribution of any COVID-19 vaccine will be a joint venture between the CDC, which typically oversees vaccine allocation, and the Department of Defense. VDH is working closely with the CDC and stakeholders in Virginia to identify planning, logistical, and operational considerations as part of our statewide vaccination plan. Our current planning scenario is to expect and be ready for a November 1 release of a new vaccine(s). In this planning scenario, the amount of vaccine expected is limited and, therefore, will need to be prioritized. Over time, the volume of vaccines is expected to increase, thereby allowing the general population to be vaccinated. We are planning for the possibility of several vaccines from manufacturers with varying storage requirements (refrigerated, frozen, and ultra cold) and varying vaccine schedules.

In preparation, VDH has developed a *COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Intent Form*. We welcome all interested providers (including pharmacies) or facilities to complete this form to indicate intent to administer COVID-19 vaccine to your patients and/or staff. Information collected will allow VDH to set up necessary accounts for vaccine ordering and reporting. VDH is still learning more details from the CDC on the specifics of this process. More information will be posted to www.vdh.virginia.gov as we learn more.

To submit your intent to administer COVID-19 vaccine, please visit our website: <https://apps.vdh.virginia.gov/VERIP/Home.aspx> and click the link to complete the *COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Intent Form*. The following are some important details surrounding provider intent and vaccination logistics:

- Completing this form does not obligate participation in this effort. VDH will follow up with next steps once you have submitted your intent.
- A *COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Intent Form* needs to be completed for each location vaccine is to be shipped, even if owned under a larger corporate or parent organization.
- Vaccine, ancillary supplies (needles, syringes, alcohol swabs, face masks or face shields), and shipping will be provided at no cost to the vaccine providers.
- Sharps containers, gloves, and bandages are not included in these supplies.

- Providers interested in committing to administering COVID-19 vaccine will need to complete the CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Program Provider Agreement and Profile. More information will be forthcoming and directions will be provided to those that complete the *COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Intent Form*.
- Vaccinators will be asked to report all doses administered through the Virginia Immunization Information System (VIIS), the state's immunization registry. Providers not already enrolled in VIIS can learn more about the benefits of VIIS and how to enroll [here](#). Providers can connect their electronic medical records system directly to VIIS. Providers also can directly enter doses administered into the VIIS website.
- Initial vaccinators may need to use the CDC's Vaccine Administration Management System (VAMS) tool.
- More information will be forthcoming on reporting requirements.

Questions regarding the *COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Intent Form* can be directed to COVIDVaccineInfo@vdh.virginia.gov. More information about how to order COVID-19 vaccine will be shared as soon as it is available.

Sincerely,

M. Norman Oliver, MD, MA

State Health Commissioner