Communicable Disease Branch Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Weekly Key Points

October 6, 2020

The North Carolina Division of Public Health (NC DPH) Communicable Disease Branch will be releasing COVID-19 weekly key points that includes information discussed on the weekly Tuesday Local Health Department call. Recordings of the call will not be made available; please use the information below as a summary of the topics presented on the call. As guidance changes, please use the most recent information provided. For questions, contact the NC DPH Communicable Disease Branch 24/7 Epidemiologist on Call at **919-733-3419**.

Important Updates
- **New:** NCDHHS_LHD Weekly Webinar_10.06.2020 FINAL.pdf (file attached)
- **New:** NCDHHS Interim Guidance for Long-Term Healthcare Antigen Testing Reporting_10_06_2020.pdf (file attached)
- **New:** Spreadsheet for LTCF lab results_final 9-29.xlsx (file attached)
- **New:** Local public health vaccine FAQ-final 10.02.20.pdf (file attached)
- **Updated:** Find My Testing Place (file attached)

Long Term Care Facilities Reporting Antigen Test Results
Facilities who have received a **point-of-care antigen test device** for detection of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, are required per North Carolina Administrative Code Rule 10A NCAC 41A.0107 to report **all results**, positive and negative. Long-term care facilities will need to report electronically, either via Electronic Lab Reporting (ELR) or in accordance with the laboratory data automation process outlined in the guidance for reporting results.

For those facilities not yet reporting electronically, we have outlined an interim process for reporting until such time as an efficient method for reporting electronically is established.
- Long-term care facilities should complete the Excel spreadsheet included in this week's key points for positive results. This spreadsheet MUST be submitted securely via email to the Division of Public Health (DPH) according to the following instructions:
  - Password protect the spreadsheet using the password provided by the DPH.
  - Please email LabTeam@dhhs.nc.gov to obtain your password. This same password will be used for each spreadsheet submitted.
  - Label the Subject line: "Confidential Test information".
  - Encrypt the email to which the spreadsheet is attached.
  - Please email your password protected Excel spreadsheet via encrypted email to LabTeam@dhhs.nc.gov .

The interim guidance and Excel spreadsheet are posted to the NC DHHS website here and the on-line CD Manual.

Uninsured Payment Portal

North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) developed a program to reimburse primary care providers (PCP) with federal funds for providing care for COVID-19 related services (e.g. follow-up care) to uninsured North Carolina residents.

An NCTracks Portal to submit claims is scheduled to go live late October and claims will be retroactively reimbursed to September 1, 2020. A payment of $150 per eligible encounter enables providers to recoup costs for COVID-19 related services provided for uninsured patients. Approximately $7.8M is available to support this program through December 30, 2020, or until the funds are depleted, whichever occurs first. Reimbursement will be made on a first-come first-served basis. For more information, review the fact sheet or see SPECIAL BULLETIN COVID-19 #137: REIMBURSEMENT FOR COVID-19 RELATED PRIMARY CARE SERVICES FOR UNINSURED NC RESIDENTS – Steps to Prepare.

Stay tuned to the Medicaid Bulletin for updates as available.

Vaccination Updates

Dry ice – We are aware of the reports of a dry ice shortage. We are working with partners to investigate dry ice capacity in North Carolina and with CDC to determine what efforts they are making in this area. We will follow up with additional information.
Oversharing – as we move into provider enrollment, we plan to overshare the provider enrollment in an effort to reach all important providers. We ask that you continue to share information with all of your partners.
FAQs – Thank you for your questions to covidvac@dhhs.nc.gov. An updated FAQ sheet is attached with this week's key points. New questions are noted each week in red and updated questions will have updated dates.
Provider Enrollment – We hope to share the cover letter, link for electronic enrollment and a set of FAQs related to COVID provider enrollment this week.

Find My Testing Place

Please review the updated 'Find My Testing Place LHD' Excel file weekly to ensure information is up to date and accurate. Please send the updated files or any related questions to SVC_Covid-19TestingSites@dhhs.nc.gov