



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

November 24, 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_11.24.2020 FINAL.pdf (file attached)
- **Updated:** Local Health Vaccine FAQ-Final 11.20.20.pdf (file attached)
- **Updated:** Find My Testing Place (file attached)

Movement Monitoring & Notification Update

Please see the slides attached to the key points email for answers to commonly encountered scenarios concerning COVID-19 cases who travel or have intentions of traveling while infectious. Detailed guidance is forthcoming and will be made available soon. As always, please feel free to reach out to the Movement, Monitoring, and Notification team if you have any questions: MMN.Team@dhhs.nc.gov.

Holiday and Co-circulating Illnesses Guidance in Nursing Homes

CMS Guidance on Holiday Gatherings in Nursing Homes: CMS and NC DHHS recommend that residents and staff of nursing homes do not participate in holiday gatherings outside the facility. Recommendations can be found here: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/covid-facility-holiday-recommendations.pdf>

Update to N95 reuse: CDC has updated their guidance to clarify that in crisis capacity settings AND no manufacturer guidance is available, N95s can be donned up to 5 times. CDC N95 reuse recommendations can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/respirators-strategy/index.html>

When influenza like illnesses (ILI) and COVID-like illnesses (CLI) are observed, test patient for both influenza (rapid PCR) AND COVID-19 (PCR or antigen). CDC testing considerations are posted here: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/diagnosis/testing-management-considerations-nursinghomes.htm> If you have any questions regarding infection prevention in congregate living settings, please email the infection prevention team at: NC.COVID.IP@dhhs.nc.gov



Vaccination and Monoclonal Antibody Updates

Pfizer submitted an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) on Friday, November 20 and Moderna is expected to submit soon. Operation Warp Speed (OWS) provided their timeline to US governors yesterday and stated they are looking at the window of 12/11 to 12/14 to complete EUA and ACIP approvals. Estimated vaccine amounts are coming in but change regularly. We hope to have a clearer idea next week.

COVID-19 Vaccine Management System (CVMS) continues to be on track for go-live the second week of December and training information will roll out next week for enrolled providers. Provider enrollment is paused this week while we switch from REDCap to the Provider enrollment portal in CVMS, and we are working to make sure we get all our providers that serve people in priority group 1b enrolled. We will issue a generic provider enrollment soon that can go to any provider to complete the provider enrollment process.

Monoclonal antibody Update

The state is now allocating the Lilly monoclonal antibodies (mAb) and will begin allocations of the Regeneron monoclonal antibodies very soon. We have been restricted to allocating specifically to hospitals by OWS but are moving into allocations outside hospitals in the coming week. We are still finalizing the details of how the rollout outside of hospitals will work. For sense of availability, we have been allocated 4096 doses of the products combined in the 3 weeks of allocations. This week is the first week receiving allocations of both products.

- Both mAb products: Have specific criteria defining a “high risk” patient, therefore deeming them eligible for treatment
- Are NOT to be used in patients hospitalized due to COVID-19.
- Were authorized for administration as soon as possible after positive viral test for SARS-CoV-2 and within 10 days of symptom onset.
- Require storage in a refrigerated setting (2-8°C) in the original carton protected from light.
- Have specific preparation and administration instructions are included.
- May only be administered in settings in which health care providers have immediate access to medications to treat a severe infusion reaction, such as anaphylaxis, and the ability to activate the emergency medical system (EMS), as necessary.
- Are administered by IV infusion and must be followed by a clinical observation period for at least 1-hour post infusion.

K-12 Updates

Executive Order no. 180 states that masks now required for all children age 5 or above. Ongoing outreach and specific support provided to nonpublic (private) schools to emphasize:

- Private schools are required to: wear cloth face coverings (age 5 or >), report suspected or confirmed cases, collaborate with LHD on infection control efforts, such as providing close contact lists when requested.
- Exploring whether to release specific guidance for nonpublic schools, but for now continue to direct private schools to [StrongSchoolsNC Toolkit](#).

Please direct questions about private schools or any schools to strongschoolsnc@dhhs.nc.gov



Contact Tracing Prioritization

With COVID-19 case counts increasing across the state and country, there is an [updated contact tracing guidance](#), to help counties prioritize which contacts to focus their limited staff time and resources on. The goal of the prioritization is to maximize COVID-19 prevention success by focusing public health resources on tracing the close contacts of cases most at risk of large-scale transmission events to halt transmission chains. For questions regarding this contact tracing prioritization guidance, please contact Dr. Vicki Mobley (victoria.mobley@dhhs.nc.gov) or Dr. Erika Samoff (erika.samoff@dhhs.nc.gov).

State Laboratory of Public Health Updates

[No Cost Community Testing submission](#)

[Find My Testing Place submission](#)

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