



## **Communicable Disease Branch Local Health Department Monthly Webinar Key Points**

**May 9, 2023**

The North Carolina Division of Public Health (NC DPH) Communicable Disease Branch will be releasing key points that includes information discussed on the monthly Tuesday Local Health Department call. 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**

Available online at <https://epi.dph.ncdhhs.gov/cd/lhds/manuals/cd/coronavirus.html>

- **New:** NCDHHS LHD Monthly Webinar 05 09 2023.pdf

#### Attachments

- ProviderLabMemo\_EndingPHE\_050423\_Final.pdf

#### Links

- **Video recording** <https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/825455942/d41f9d7067>

### **Epi Section Update**

- An outbreak of new mpox cases has been reported in the Chicago, IL area with most cases being in people who were fully vaccinated.
  - Clinicians should be aware that mpox is still circulating and consider that diagnosis, even in those who have been vaccinated.
  - DPH is working with partners on outreach and resources in advance of [Pride Month events](#) in June.
  - DPH sent information and guidance on 5/9/23 to NC LHDs and clinicians.
  - For more information about mpox, including how to access vaccine and treatment, please visit [NCDHHS.gov/mpox](https://ncdhhs.gov/mpox).
- The federal COVID-19 Public Health Emergency ends this week.
  - CDC recently distributed [updated talking points](#), including information about changes in metrics, testing and vaccination.
  - Additional information will be forthcoming from DHHS later this week.

### **Additional info from COVID Testing and Therapeutics:**

Testing and therapeutics requests that LHDs update their websites to reflect the current COVID testing posture. Some LHD websites still reference state vendor testing which ended March 31<sup>st</sup>.



## Question & Answer

**Q.** Will you get rid of the covid 19 resources?

**A.** The team will be evaluating the entire COVID website to determine what to take forward, and we continue to evolve our response operations. This may include removing, redirecting, or relocating information and resources as COVID-19 is integrated into daily operations. The goal is to reduce the website to match the response.

**Q.** Since COVID is no longer a mandatory reported condition, how will we determine outbreaks?

**A.** Guidance for LHDs is coming out soon. We are encouraging facilities and providers to report suspected outbreaks, similar to reporting for outbreaks of other respiratory viruses.

**Q.** Will clusters still be reported for school settings?

**A.** Reporting for clusters and outbreaks for COVID should mirror what is done for influenza.

**Q.** If we have a current covid outbreak in a LTCF, does the state expect LHDs to link all cases to the outbreak in NCCOVID until the outbreak closes or just the cases prior to 5/11/23? Facilities are asking if they need to continue to report positive cases.

**A.** After May 11 there will be no state requirement for LTCFs to report individual cases, however LTCFs should continue to follow federal reporting requirements.

**Q.** How should the LHDs sunset their covid websites? Are we expected to shut down the hubs and remove all data related to COVID? Are we allowed, or is it recommended for us, to share summaries for our communities if they want to view the data/graphs we have created?

**A.** LHDs can certainly continue to post local COVID data as you see fit. I would encourage you to check any links to state or CDC sites to make sure they are still functional after next week, given the many changes.

**Q.** Covid documents that have been faxed (Labs, hospital records, etc.) can these be shredded since everything is in NCCOVID, or, do we need to follow retention of records?

**A.** Please email [Vanessa.gailor@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:Vanessa.gailor@dhhs.nc.gov)

**Q.** Does guidance still recommend isolation for 5 days or until symptoms resolve?

**A.** CDC has not announced any changes to isolation guidance.

**Q.** Is there a document for a risk assessment?

**A.** There is not a specific risk assessment document. CDC guidance can be found here and may have something useful: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html>

**Q.** For settings such as homeless shelters, are there any changes in isolation recommendations? Do individuals with COVID still need to isolate for 10 days, or can they isolate for 5 days and then mask for 5 days like the general population?

**A.** Guidance for this setting would be to align with community guidance.

**Q.** Do you still expect LHDs to submit COVID cases to the State that have been left in workflows?



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**A.** The workflows will continue to grow/populate until we can automate things in the coming future. So if you can please send events to state to keep the workflows clear