

Good Afternoon:

During this unprecedented time, long-term care facilities (LTCFs) have been disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Department recognizes the COVID-19 pandemic is not over and the Department is committed to continue to support response operations for COVID-19 outbreaks. The Department, in partnership, with the Department of Human Services, will be transitioning from the Regional Congregate Care Teams (RCATs) to a new program, effective January 1, 2022. This program will continue to provide LTCFs with COVID-19 outbreak response support including:

1. Each awardee will have a dedicated phone line with 24/7 access, including designated office hours, for inquiries, consultations, and follow up calls from long-term care facilities.
2. Each awardee will provide consultation and technical assistance, assessment and feedback, training, and incident management coaching.

The Department also recognizes the crucial need to support enhancing long-term care facility resiliency and self-reliance with the purpose of preventing and effectively responding to COVID-19 and other infectious disease outbreaks. Therefore, as part of the new program, awardees will also be providing quality improvement project opportunities to interested skilled nursing facilities, intermediate care facilities, personal care homes, and assisted living facilities in the following areas:

1. Promoting professional development and a resilient long-term care facility workforce.
2. Implementing infection prevention and control and emergency preparedness best practices to enhance delivery of resident-centered care.
3. Building a sustainable outbreak response operation construct that meets the facility's needs.

The Department strongly encourages long-term facilities to engage with the awardee in their respective regions and take advantage of the valuable services they are providing to help build resilience and self-reliance.

The Department has developed plans to ensure a smooth operational transition, which includes further communications with long-term care facilities. Once more detailed information can be provided, the Department will ensure facilities have all necessary information needed for January 1, 2022.

As a reminder, these remain available:

- PPE Critical Needs Assessment Form https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=QSiOQSGb1U2bbEf8Wpob3jrNozNGJREkP_mIJdb1vNU%20MzdWWkdKMFBSUEIPSPfKMDZBWEJKTvYhYSiQIQCN0PWcu
- Testing Needs Assessment Form <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=QSiOQSGb1U2bbEf8Wpob3oXGXbAHbYBFmYwW-F9nslhUNlpKWVoySURFTUkwMEk0RjVPTEQ1S0cxRi4u>
- Pennsylvania Long-Term Care Task Force Staffing Support Request https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=QSiOQSGb1U2bbEf8Wpob3rnwoGKj2_BPg_kvRKCyzwzJUMTJVUVpKN1E5WExENEIOQUU4UzM5VDMMyUC4u