



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

Agenda 8/6/2020



Topic	Presenter/Facilitator
Global / National / State Epidemiology Update Infection Prevention Key Recommendations Guidance Updates	Evelyn Cook <i>Associate Director NC SPICE</i>
Testing Update	Susan Kansagra <i>NC Division of Public Health</i> Scott Shone <i>Director of State Public Health Laboratory</i>
Medicaid Update	Dave Richard <i>Deputy Secretary NC Medicaid</i>
Discussion / Q&A	Call Participants – <i>Please type questions in chat feature</i>

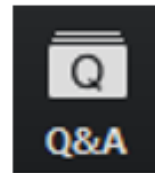


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Logistics for today's COVID-19 Forum

Question during the live webinar



RCC (Relay Conference Captioning)

Participants can access real-time captioning for this webinar here:

<https://www.captionedtext.com/client/event.aspx?EventID=4535470&CustomerID=324>

Technical assistance

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Epidemiology



- Epidemiology Update
 - Global
 - National
 - State



Infection Prevention Recommendations

- New Admissions-Re-admissions
 - Residents-COVID status known
 - Residents-COVID status unknown
- Personal Protective Equipment
 - Conventional capacity: measures/controls already implemented
 - Contingency capacity: temporary measures during periods of anticipated shortage
 - Crisis capacity: not commensurate with U.S. standards but may need to be considered during unknown periods of PPE shortages.
- Return to Work-Asymptomatic HCP





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CDC Updated Interim Guidance



- **COVID-19 Guidance for Shared or Congregate Housing-updated August 3, 2020**
 - Created to help owners, administrators, or operators of shared (also called “congregate”) housing facilities-working together with residents, staff and public health officials-prevent the spread of COVID-19
- This is in addition to the May 29, 2020 Considerations for Preventing Spread of COVID-19 in Assisted Living Facilities

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/shared-congregate-house/guidance-shared-congregate-housing.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/assisted-living.html>



SNF Testing

- Baseline test of all residents and staff
- Test staff at least biweekly (every other week)
- If one or more cases, test residents and staff every week until 14 days out from the last positive case, then resume biweekly staff testing



Federal Announcement on SNF Point of Care Testing

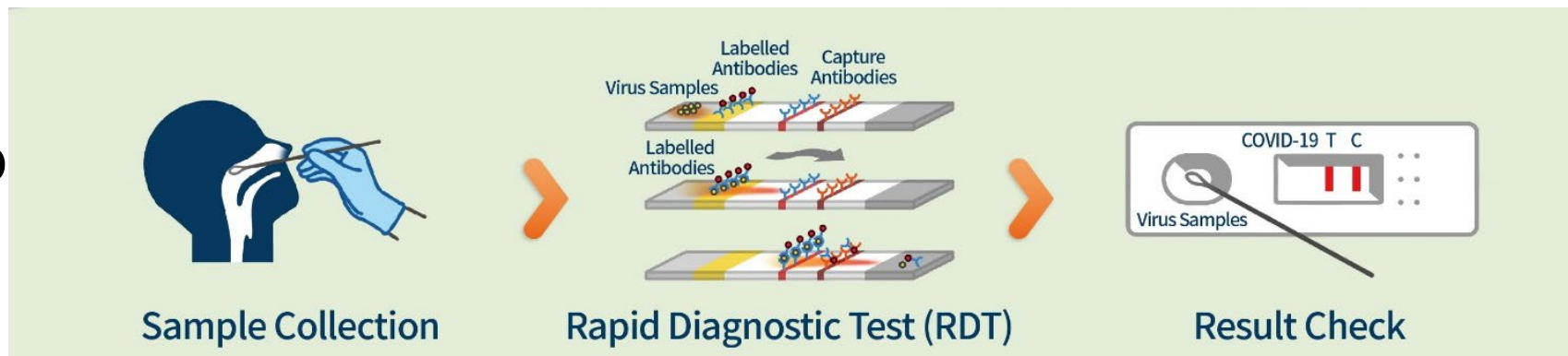
- **Facilities are prioritized to receive a Point of Care testing device based on the following criteria:**
 - Nursing Homes that are identified as being in “Hotspots”
 - "Nursing homes nationwide that have reported any of the following:
 - Three or more confirmed or suspected new cases of COVID-19 in the last week
 - At least one new COVID-19 case in the last week after having zero previous COVID-19 cases
 - Inadequate access to testing in the last week or at least one new resident death due to COVID-19 in the last week
 - At least one new confirmed or suspected COVID-19 case among staff in the last week”
 - Nursing homes must also have an eligible CLIA Certificate of Waiver as outlined by CMS
- **65 Nursing Homes from North Carolina thus far receiving machines**



Antigen Testing

POC/Near-Patient

Antigen



- ▶ Less Sensitive
- ▶ Specific
- ▶ Minutes
- ▶ Low throughput

- Antigen testing is best when there is a high pre-test probability of SARS-CoV-2 infection



Antigen Testing Guidance - 1

- **Populations or circumstances in which antigen testing should be considered include:**
 - Symptomatic individuals in whom COVID-19 is suspected at a time and place of known high prevalence of COVID-19.
 - Symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals in correctional facilities, long-term care facilities or other high risk, congregate settings where active cases have been confirmed as part of an active outbreak investigation.



Antigen Testing Guidance - 2

- Populations or circumstances in which antigen testing are not appropriate include:
 - Asymptomatic individuals not in high risk settings
 - Asymptomatic screening of individuals or populations
 - Screening of health care workers, emergency responders and other essential personnel
 - Population-based surveillance studies



Antigen Testing Guidance - 3

- **Positive antigen tests should be considered an indication of likely SARS-CoV-2 infection. Clinical management of patients with a positive antigen test should be the same as a molecular PCR test.**
- **Negative results with an antigen test should be considered in the context of a patient's recent exposures, history and the presence of clinical signs and symptoms consistent with COVID-19, and confirmed with an FDA authorized molecular assay, if necessary, for patient management.**
- **All positive and negative antigen results must be reported as part of required reporting of COVID-19 diagnostic tests.**

<https://files.nc.gov/covid/documents/guidance/healthcare/Antigen-Provider-Update.pdf>



NC Medicaid's Goals Related to Congregate Care/LTSS COVID-19 Response

To support COVID-related response and needs among facility-based and community LTSS providers, by leveraging Medicaid resources to:

- Effectively support the care of COVID+ residents.
- Accommodate needs related to hospital discharge surge.
- Reduce transmission through effective infection management and prevention.
- Increase service flexibility for provider networks impacted by crisis.



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Updates from Dave Richard

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Federal Provider Relief Fund Deadline Extended to August 28th

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced changes to the Provider Relief Fund opportunities for Medicaid providers:

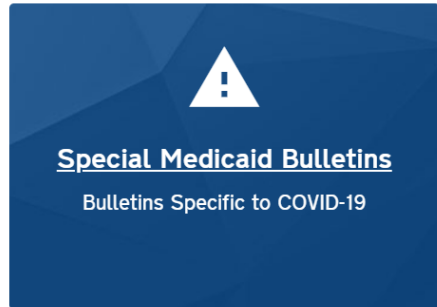
- Application deadline extended to Aug. 28, 2020, for Medicaid providers to receive funding through the Provider Relief Fund;
- Certain providers who previously received Medicare funds can apply for Provider Relief Funds Payments for providers who have changed ownership.

For more information, please refer to [**SPECIAL BULLETIN COVID-19 #118: New Opportunities for Medicaid Providers Applying for Federal Relief Funds.**](#)

COVID Special Bulletins Released since Last Webinar (through 8/3/2020)

All available at: <https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/about-us/covid-19-guidance-and-resources/providers>

COVID-19 Special Medicaid Bulletins



- [SPECIAL BULLETIN COVID-19 #117: NCDHHS RFAs to Support Communities Hard Hit by COVID-19](#) - Aug. 3, 2020
- [SPECIAL BULLETIN COVID-19 #116: New Webinar to Support Medicaid Providers Applying for Federal Relief Funds](#) - July 24, 2020
- [SPECIAL BULLETIN COVID-19 #115: Targeted Rate Increase and Associated Requirements for Swing Bed Services](#) - July 21, 2020



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Questions from this Medicaid Update?



About Hardship Advancements	Medicaid.Hardships@dhhs.nc.gov
About COVID-related Rate Increases	<u>NCTracks Contact Center</u> : 800-688-6696
About Reports Required of Outbreak and Response Facilities	Medicaid.ProviderReimbursement@dhhs.nc.gov
About COVID-related flexibilities in Medicaid Policy	Medicaid.covid19@dhhs.nc.gov

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Q & A

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