



office of the governor of the commonwealth of virginia

GOVERNOR'S COVID-19 LONG-TERM CARE TASK FORCE

Dr. Laurie Forlano, Deputy Commissioner of Population Health, VDH

Gena Berger, Chief Deputy Commissioner, DSS

September 4, 2020

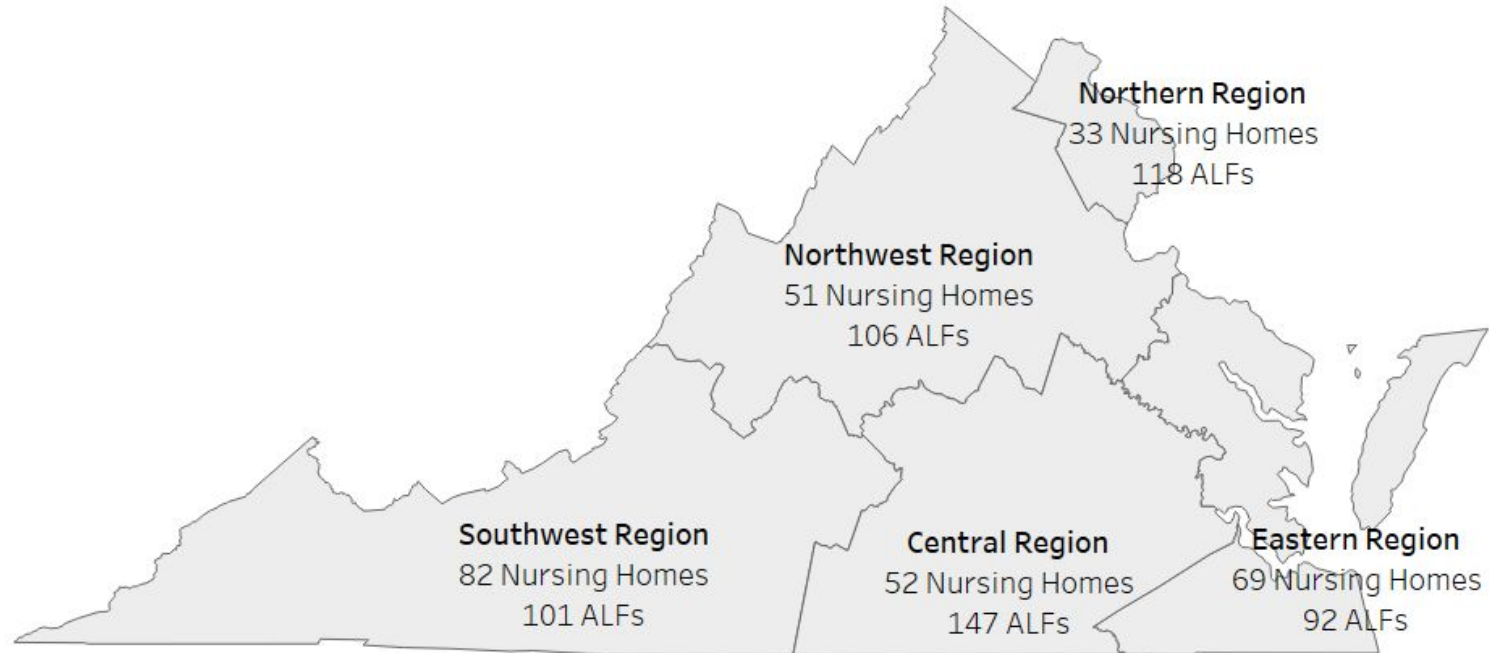
Welcome and Housekeeping Items

- Please mute your phone (do NOT put us on hold) if you are not speaking
- We prefer to take questions/comments at the end of each agenda item
 - Feel free to utilize the chat box

Overview of Agenda

- Data Update
- CMS & CDC Testing Updates
- Task Force Behavioral Health Working Group
- VANG Update
- N95 Fit Testing
- PPE Exchange
- Discussion: COVID-19 Facilities & Wings
- Financing Questions
- 2020 General Assembly August Special Session Update
- Discussion
- Next Steps

Number of LTCFs by VDH Region

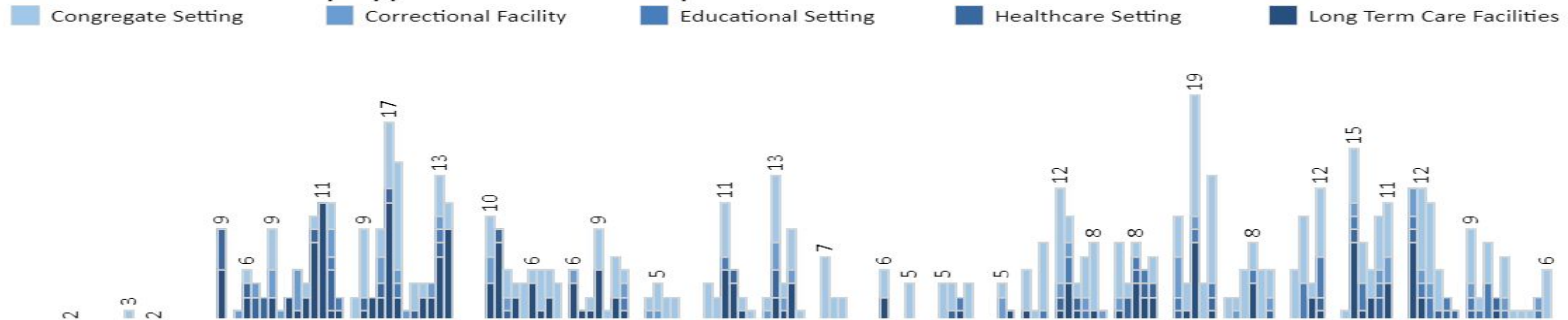


COVID-19 Cases in LTCFs and Non-LTCFs Over Time

Cases and Deaths by Outbreak Facility Type - State Totals

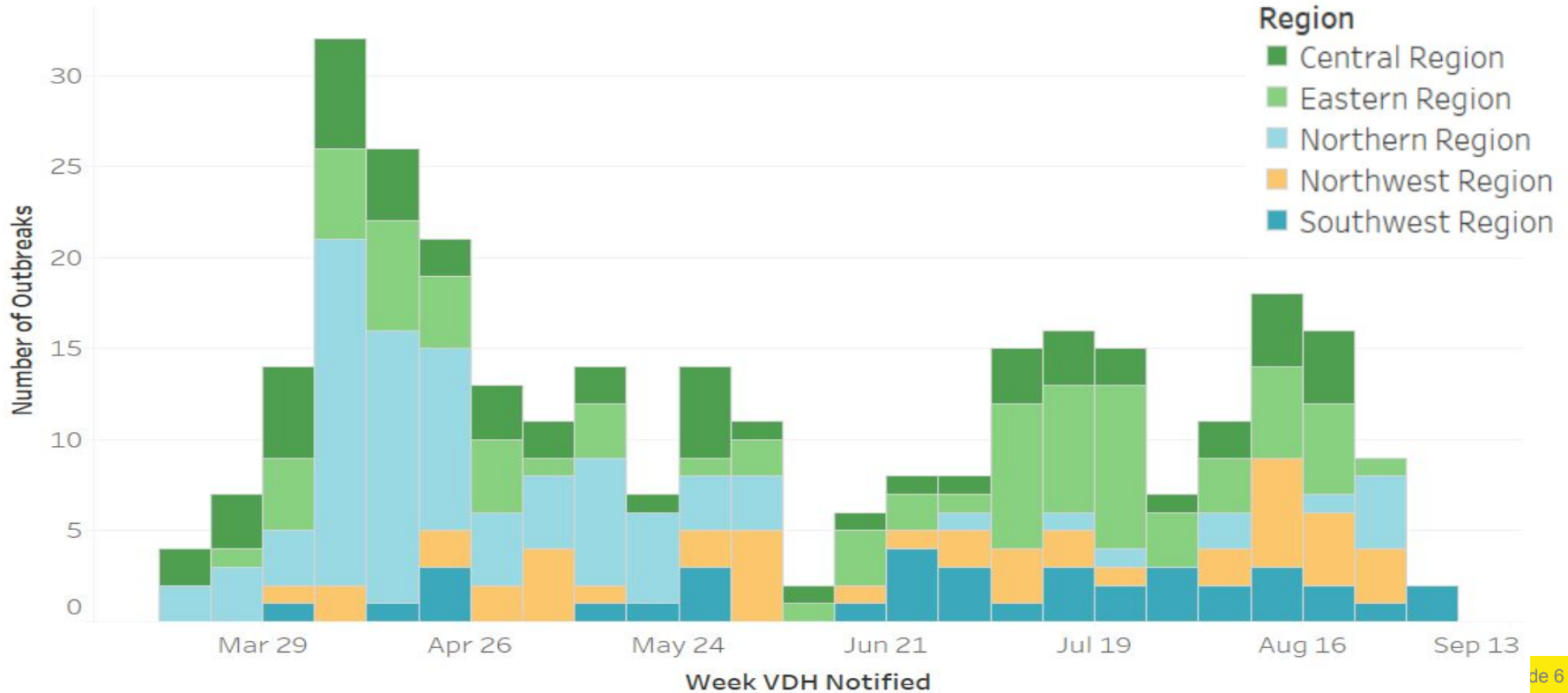
Long Term Care Facilities	Cases	9,470
	Deaths	1,374
Correctional Facility	Cases	4,101
	Deaths	17
Congregate Setting	Cases	3,559
	Deaths	47
Healthcare Setting	Cases	487
	Deaths	18
Educational Setting	Cases	330
	Deaths	0

Number and Facility Type of Outbreak by Date VDH Notified



Number and Region of LTCF COVID-19 Outbreaks

by date VDH notified; includes nursing homes and assisted living facilities



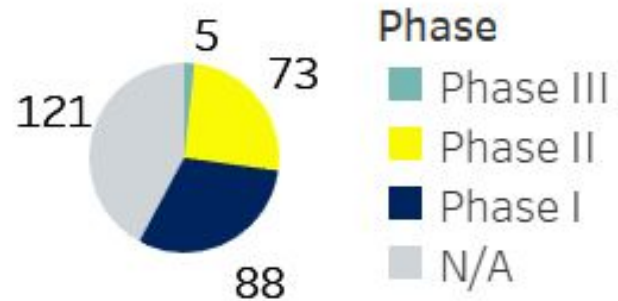
Phased Reopening: Nursing Home Status

Number of New LTCF Outbreaks Reported to VDH in the Last 7 Days (as of 9/4)

- Central Region: 0
- Eastern Region: 2
- Northern Region: 0
- Northwest Region: 0
- Southwest Region: 2

Statewide (as of 9/4)

- Nursing homes in Phase I: 88
- Nursing homes in Phase II: 73
- Nursing homes in Phase III: 5



Note these data are not being posted publicly; for internal situational awareness.

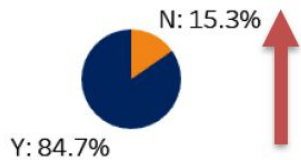
Data are considered incomplete, as nursing homes are not required to report phase changes.

NHSN Data: PPE in Nursing Homes

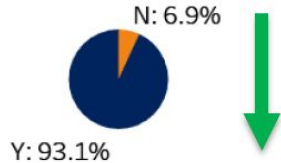
Does the facility have adequate supply for one week using conventional capacity?

■ N
■ Y

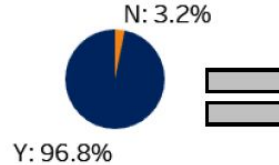
N95 masks



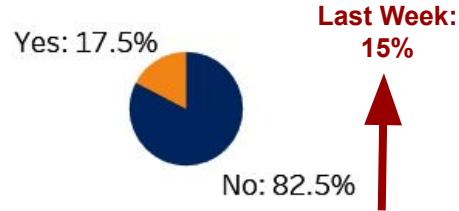
Surgical masks



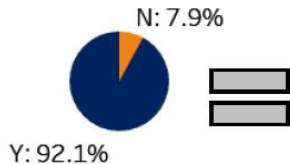
Eye protection



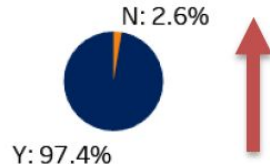
Shortage of Any Supply



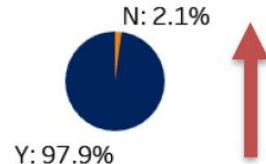
Gowns



Gloves



ABHS



Did the facility report having an inadequate supply of **any** item for one week using conventional capacity?

■ Yes
■ No

Reporting Week: August 23-29

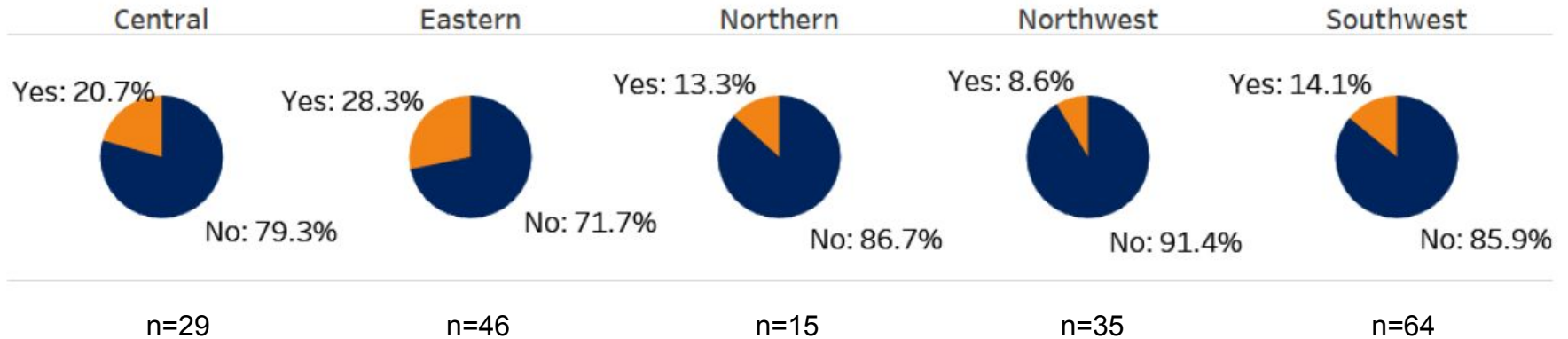
NHSN Data Pulled: August 31

Number of Nursing Homes: 189

NHSN Data: PPE in Nursing Homes

Did the facility report having an inadequate supply of **any** item for one week using conventional capacity?

Yes No



Reporting Week: August 23-29

NHSN Data Pulled: August 31

Testing Update

Background

- New [CMS requirements](#) for testing in nursing homes
- Newly released [CDC antigen testing guidance](#)
- New [CDC antigen testing guidance for nursing homes](#)
 - New [CDC algorithm for antigen testing in nursing homes](#)
- Update to [FDA FAQ](#) on using diagnostic tests for screening asymptomatic individuals

Review and updates to VDH Nursing Home Reopening Guidance in progress

CMS Testing Update

- On August 26, CMS posted [Interim Final Rule \(IFC\), CMS-3401-IFC](#), requiring certified nursing homes to test residents, staff, and volunteers. The interim rule requires that:
 - Symptomatic staff and residents be tested;
 - In the event on an outbreak, all staff and residents that previously tested negative should be tested (and retested every 3-7 days) until no new cases are identified; and
 - Staff be tested regularly based on the following criteria:

Community COVID-19 Activity	Previous Week County Positivity Rate	Minimum Testing Frequency
Low	<5%	Once Monthly*
Medium	5% - 10%	Once Weekly*
High	>10%	Twice Weekly*

*This frequency presumes availability of Point of Care testing on-site at the nursing home or where off-site testing turnaround time is <48 hours.

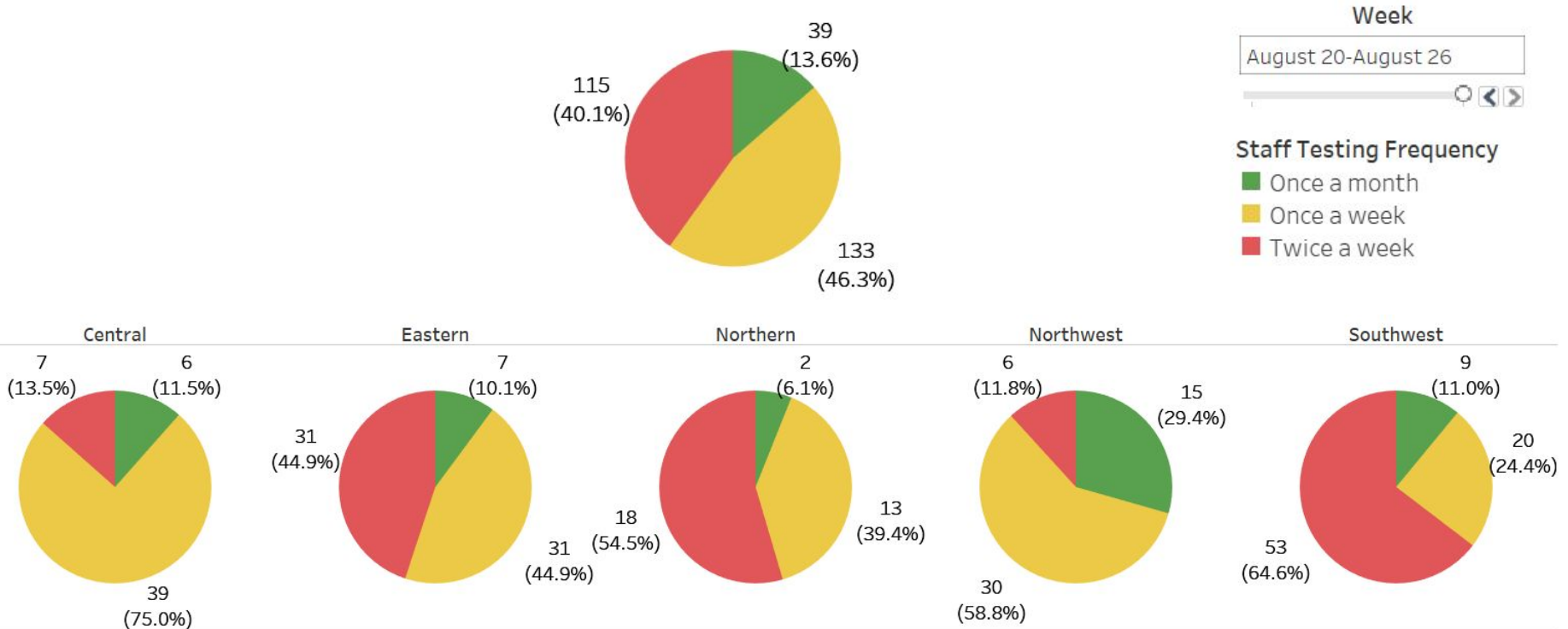
Additional Testing Requirement Facts

- CMS' testing mandate is effective September 2, 2020 and requires testing of all residents and staff (employees regardless of title, volunteers, contractors, consultants).
- Regular testing requirement anticipates availability of antigen test equipment. Facilities without antigen equipment should have arrangements with a laboratory to conduct tests to meet requirements.
- Routine testing of asymptomatic residents is not recommended nor required.
- Individuals who tested positive don't need repeat testing for 90 days.
- Staff can be tested elsewhere, if it is completed in the same timeframe and results are documented.
- County positivity rate can be found under the "COVID-19 Testing" section [here](#)
 - Check rates on first and third Monday each month, adjust frequency immediately with positivity increase and test at higher frequency for at least two weeks with downgrade in activity.
- Testing for staff and residents requires physician order.
- Facilities must have a CLIA waiver certificate for point of care testing.
- Facilities must report all negative and positive tests to VDH.
- Staff testing may be covered by the Provider Relief Fund, CARES Act Funds, or staff health insurance (diagnostic only).

CDC Considerations for Use of SARS-CoV-2 Antigen Testing in Nursing Homes

- **Testing of symptomatic residents or HCP**
 - If an antigen test is **positive**, no confirmatory test is necessary
 - If an antigen test is **presumptive negative**, perform RT-PCR immediately (e.g., within 48 hours).
- **Testing of asymptomatic residents or HCP in nursing homes as part of an outbreak response**
 - If an antigen test is **positive**, no confirmatory test is necessary
 - If an antigen test is **presumptive negative**, residents should be placed in appropriate precautions for facilities with an outbreak. HCP should be allowed to continue to work with continued symptom monitoring. The facility should continue serial viral testing (antigen or RT-PCR) every 3-7 days until no new cases are identified for a 14-day period.
- **Testing of asymptomatic HCP in nursing homes without an outbreak per CMS recommendations**
 - If an antigen test is **positive**, perform confirmatory RT-PCR test within 48 hours of the antigen test, especially in counties with low prevalence. If confirmatory test is performed, HCP should be excluded from work until confirmatory test results are completed.
 - If an antigen test is **presumptive negative**, allow HCP to continue to work.

Minimum Testing Frequency of Virginia Nursing Homes



Improving Care by Promoting Employee Wellness in Long-Term Care Settings

Angela Spleen, PhD
HAI/AR Health Educator

angela.spleen@vdh.virginia.gov

Purpose

To provide a statewide coordinated response aimed at protecting, promoting safety, and developing policy and programs to support residents, healthcare personnel, and support staff in long-term care facilities.

Mission

Improve the safety and quality of care in LTC facilities by strengthening and empowering the LTC workforce. This will be accomplished by convening a multidisciplinary group of stakeholders with expertise in mental health, disease prevention, and long-term care.

We aim to:

- Develop a multidimensional and comprehensive approach that supports the well-being of LTC staff
- Encourage long-term care settings to adopt comprehensive resident and employee wellness measures
- Strengthen state policy to improve LTC employee work conditions

Maine LTC Workforce Oversight Committee

- [Enacted Legislation HB 1119, Public Law 2019](#)
 - Established Commission to study ways to support and strengthen the direct care workforce across the long-term care continuum
 - Shortage of direct care workers
- [Commission's report published January, 2020](#)
 - Draft legislation included worker reimbursement, workforce retention and development, qualifications and training, public assistance
 - Oversight Advisory Committee

New Mexico Caregivers Coalition

- [Stakeholders that advocate for paid professional and family caregivers](#)
- Led by Board of Directors and Advisory Council
- Worked in conjunction with state legislators to change state law such that caregivers were covered under minimum wage and overtime protections
- Current overarching goals:
 - Increase caregivers' career and advancement opportunities
 - Educate caregivers about job benefits like affordable health insurance
 - Create and advance opportunities for social and professional networking
 - Create a unified voice for caregivers in New Mexico and in the United States on issues of importance

Questions/Discussion

- Is there interest to support a LTC workforce initiative?
- Is there interest in convening a LTC Wellness/Mental Health Advisory Group?
- Who do we target LTC direct care staff or others?
- What would be the scope?
- Assessment of existing LTC workforce landscape?
- Professional training and education?
- Accessible mental health resources?
- State and local policy advocacy?

LTC Wellness Advisory Group Participation

Please contact Angela Spleen if you would like to participate in or share information on members to approach for participation in a LTC Wellness Advisory Group.

Angela Spleen

angela.spleen@vdh.virginia.gov

804-239-2273

Virginia National Guard

- The Virginia National Guard plans to resume support for Virginia's COVID-19 response in early September with approximately 85 Soldiers and Airmen conducting COVID-19 sample test collection and training on the proper fit and wear of personal protective equipment. They began mobilizing Sept. 1, 2020, for training and administrative tasks, and they expect to begin operations about Sept. 8. The VNG will also provide regional planners to support Virginia Department of Emergency Management and Virginia Department of Health priorities for COVID-19 response.
- VNG personnel supported the state's COVID-19 response from April through July, and they collected nearly 106,000 testing samples.

N95 Fit Test Training

Suzi Silverstein, MD, RD
Office of Emergency Preparedness Assistant Director

Training Session Requests

- Two VANG teams
- One team per VDEM region each week
- Each jurisdiction encouraged to schedule at least one session
- Any organization that can fill a class can schedule a session
 - Min 6 – max 30 participants
- Request form for sessions will be posted week of Sept 7
- <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-preparedness/n95-respiratory-fit-testing-train-the-trainer/>

Training Session Registration

- Sessions will be posted online
- Free but registration required <https://va.train.org> course ID# 1046592
- Participants will be asked to bring kit if they have one
- Participants will be asked to bring completed OSHA Medical Questionnaire and signed Medical Recommendation form
- <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-preparedness/n95-respiratory-fit-testing-train-the-trainer/>

PPE Exchange

- The All Hazards Consortium (AHC) has launched a [PPE Exchange](#) to support the procurement of face masks, respirators, face shields, gloves, goggles, gowns, sanitizers, dispensers, thermometers, wipes, etc
- This tool leverages an "Uber-like" technology that quickly matches PPE buyers and suppliers within minutes instead of days,

Discussion: COVID-19 Facilities & Wings

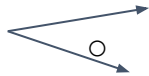
Financing Update: Guidance from the Department of Medical Assistance Services

- DMAS' guidance for nursing homes and assisted living facilities' CARES Act enrollment and reimbursement are available at:
 - <https://www.dmas.virginia.gov/#/covid>
- Specific questions from providers should be directed to DMAS' vendor, MSLC, at caresactinvoicing_nf@mslc.com.

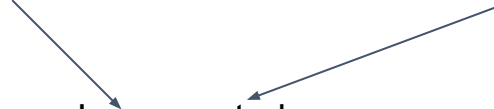
2020 August Special Session Legislative Update

- Multiple bills have been introduced during the 2020 August Special Session of the General Assembly in response to the challenges faced by LTCFs, their residents, families, and staff during the COVID-19 pandemic:
 - Data Transparency
 - [HB 5034](#); [HB 5048](#); ~~[SB 5026](#)~~; [SB 5081](#); [SB 5090](#); ~~[SB 5105](#)~~;
 - Visitation
 - [SB 5042](#)
 - Testing
 - [SB 5109](#)
 - Workers' Compensation
 - [HB 5028](#)
 - Electronic Monitoring
 - [HB 5041](#)
 - Liability
 - [HB 5073](#); [SB 5023](#)

Passed
Senate



Incorporated
into SB 5081



Discussion

A list of trainings have been posted on the [LTC Task Force website](#)

- Please let us know if you have additional information to add; we would like to keep this information up to date

Next steps