Update on COVID-19 in Long-term Care Facilities

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LTCF Situational Awareness

• Unfortunately, most facilities are dealing with COVID-19 clusters right now (NHSN Data reported by 377 CMS-certified LTCFs)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Confirmed Cases</th>
<th>Confirmed Residents</th>
<th>Confirmed Staff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20-Nov-22</td>
<td>560</td>
<td>317</td>
<td>243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27-Nov-22</td>
<td>781</td>
<td>414</td>
<td>367</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-Dec-22</td>
<td>1144</td>
<td>589</td>
<td>555</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-Dec-22</td>
<td>973</td>
<td>496</td>
<td>477</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-Dec-22</td>
<td>1118</td>
<td>549</td>
<td>569</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-Dec-22</td>
<td>1411</td>
<td>796</td>
<td>615</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-Jan-23</td>
<td>1425</td>
<td>779</td>
<td>646</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• The good news, is that there is widespread use of therapeutics, and we are seeing good outcomes and mild or no illness in nearly all residents

• Epidemiologists are no longer assigned to facilities, unless there are extenuating circumstances such as rapid response team deployment
LTCF COVID-19 Guidance

- Shift in guidance from CDC, CMS and DPH to better balance quality of life for residents which means there are really no limitations on visitation anymore, exposed individuals are not strictly quarantined, and communal activities should generally continue in most cases.

- DPH still requires that staff be tested at least weekly, (or twice a week if they are not UTD) but this can be antigen testing and does not have to be performed at the facility.

- At this stage of the pandemic, facilities are aware of existing guidance when responding to cases and clusters.
  - Guidance is all posted online here under “Caregivers” COVID-19 Public Health Guidance and Directives | Mass.gov.
  - Facilities can call 617-983-6800 at any time if they have questions or need support.
CMS requires weekly reporting to NHSN, including cases, deaths and vaccination status of staff and residents COVID-19 Nursing Home Data - Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Data (cms.gov)

The MA State Legislature requires reporting of all cases among residents and staff (and hospitalizations and deaths) to be reported in REDCap (Chapter 93 of the acts of 2020) Archive of Chapter 93 COVID-19 Data | Mass.gov

The Bureau of Healthcare Safety and Quality (BHCSQ) requires reporting of any COVID-19 deaths to Healthcare Facility Reporting System (HCFRS)

All positive antigen results for tests conducted in the facility must be reported to DPH via Casetivity

Epidemiology only asks facilities to report new cases if they have gone 28 days without COVID-19 case activity, thus indicating a new “cluster” the new BRF can be used and should ONLY BE COMPLETED ONCE for each reported cluster: EDSS CRF Covid Outbreak (casetivity.com)
How Can LBOHs Help LTCFs?

- Supporting facilities with vaccines and PPE if needed
- Many LBOHs with excess home test kits have offered to provide to facilities for visitor and family use
- Please don’t request case line lists from facilities but instead consider periodic check-ins to see how facilities are doing.
- Become familiar with available published data sources if more information is desired.
LTCF MAVEN Clusters

- **NEW** COVID Cluster Events should only be created in MAVEN for a nursing home or rest home if they have not had a staff or resident case in the prior 28 days. (Cases within 28 days of a previous case remain part of the existing cluster event.)
  - Please first confirm that there is not an existing (open) cluster event in MAVEN!
    - Currently, 63% of licensed nursing homes have an open clusters
  - If no existing open cluster event in MAVEN, recommend the facility report via new MDPH online reporting form (which creates the MAVEN cluster event). **LBOH generally do not need to create these cluster events manually.**
  - LBOH can see MAVEN cluster events in their jurisdiction and are welcome to contribute notes or updates if applicable
  - Please ensure that the following variables are completed in MAVEN:
    - Last onset/positive date (Respiratory/ILI QPKG)
    - Exposure setting name (Standard QPKG)
    - Exposure setting type (Standard QPKG)
    - Zip (Standard QPKG)

- All healthcare facility clusters will automatically be closed 28 days from the last onset/positive date.
  - CMS and Chapter 93 reporting by the facility are the best resources for weekly case numbers and additional information.
Questions?