Strategies to Mitigate Healthcare Personnel Staffing Shortages

As staffing shortages in healthcare facilities become a concern- please refer to the recommendations in order to maintain appropriate staffing and safe work environment for both staff and patient care:

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/mitigating-staff-shortages.html

Strategies to Mitigate Healthcare Personnel Staffing Shortages

Develop plans to allow *asymptomatic* HCP who have been *exposed to COVID*, and should quarantine, but are not known to be infected to continue to work:

- These HCP should still report temperature and absence of symptoms each day before starting work.

- These HCP should wear a facemask (for source control) while at work for 14 days If HCP develop even mild symptoms consistent with COVID-19, they must cease patient care activities and notify their supervisor or occupational health services prior to leaving work. These individuals should be prioritized for testing.

- If HCP are tested and found to be infected with SARS-CoV-2, they should be excluded from work until they meet all Return to Work Criteria.

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/mitigating-staff-shortages.html

Strategies to Mitigate Healthcare Personnel Staffing Shortages

Develop criteria to determine which HCP with *suspected or confirmed* COVID-19 (who are well enough and willing to work) could return to work in a healthcare setting before meeting all Return to Work Criteria—if staff shortages continue despite other mitigation strategies.

- Allow HCP with confirmed COVID to provide direct care only for patients with confirmed COVID-19, preferably in a cohort setting.

- Wear a facemask for source control at all times while in the healthcare facility until they meet the full Return to Work Criteria and all symptoms are completely resolved or at baseline.

- Facemasks should be worn even when they are in non-patient care areas such as breakrooms, as they can expose their coworkers.

- If they must remove their facemask, for example, in order to eat or drink, they should separate themselves from others.

- They should be restricted from contact with severely immunocompromised patients (e.g., transplant, hematology-oncology) until the full Return to Work Criteria have been met.

- They should self-monitor for symptoms and seeking re-evaluation from occupational health if respiratory symptoms recur or worsen.

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/mitigating-staff-shortages.html

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Flu Vaccination Guidance During a Pandemic

"When is it safe to administer the flu vaccine to someone who has had or is recovering from COVID?"

When that individual has come off isolation precautions and has recovered from COVID, they can receive the influenza vaccine.

Links and FAQs regarding flu vaccine during COVID:
https://www.cdc.gov/flu/season/faq-flu-season-2020-2021.htm

https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pandemic-guidance/index.html

Clinical Questions about COVID-19:
New FAQs on Testing in Nursing Homes

Provides answers to frequently asked questions- including role of confirmatory testing and management of individuals with potential false-positive or false- negative antigen test results.

Link Here

Testing in Nursing Homes

How can public health jurisdictions prioritize testing across nursing homes when resources are limited?   +

Is there an optimal frequency for testing residents and HCP who previously tested negative in nursing homes as part of an outbreak response?   +

Should residents in nursing homes who are asymptomatic be tested in non-outbreak settings?   +

When should an antigen test be considered a false positive?   +

If a nursing home is concerned about a false-positive antigen test result, what confirmatory test should be performed?   +

If a confirmatory test is performed on a person with a potential false-positive antigen test result or a potential false-negative result, what infection prevention and control (IPC) measures should be enacted while the result is pending?   +

What infection prevention and control (IPC) measures should be enacted in response to people with a positive result from an antigen test followed by a negative result from an RT-PCR test?   +

Should residents or HCP who have a positive antibody test for SARS-CoV-2 be tested as part of facility-wide testing?   +

How should facilities approach residents who decline testing?   +

How should facilities approach HCP who decline testing?   +

If HCP work at multiple facilities, do they need to receive a viral test at each facility?   +

Should asymptomatic HCP who are tested as part of facility-wide testing be excluded from work while waiting for test results?   +

Upcoming Education and Webinars

NHSN Point of Care Test Result Reporting for LTCFs Webinar

The new NHSN option will enable nursing homes to enter point of care (POC) SARS-CoV-2 laboratory test data into the NHSN application. **NHSN, in turn, will report the nursing home POC laboratory test data electronically to the public health agency, state or local, that has jurisdictional authority and responsibility to receive and use the nursing home's data.** Deidentified nursing home POC laboratory also will be reported via existing public health reporting mechanisms to the US Department of Health and Human Services in accordance with the U.S. Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act requirements.

Two Webinar Options (same content- different platforms):

#1
Title: Reporting Results of Point of Care Testing for COVID-19: A New NHSN Pathway
Date: October 22, 2020
Time: 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM ET

Join ZoomGov Meeting
https://cdc.zoomgov.com/j/1613111399?pwd=NjNCR0svMFk3N1JtUWhZVUxOT3YxUT09

Meeting ID: 161 311 1399
Passcode: 6x+*.8bx

Dial by your location
      +1 669 254 5252 US (San Jose)
      +1 646 828 7666 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 161 311 1399
Passcode: 73848065

_____

#2
Title: Reporting Results of Point of Care Testing for COVID-19: A New NHSN Pathway
Date: October 23, 2020
Time: 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET

Register in advance for this meeting:
https://cdc.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJIsd-2orzooHuSyPRJ5icjmzTkwOlSrC1k

AHA Living Learning Network Micro-Learning Session
PPE Preservation Strategies

Date: Thursday, October 15th
Time: 1:00PM - 1:45PM EST
Link: (Register Here)

Learn about the latest COVID-19 PPE preservation strategies presented by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Healthcare Resilience Working Group. The speakers will walk through the new PPE Preservation Planning Toolkit developed to help hospitals and health systems prevent a PPE shortage. Participants will be able to ask questions in real-time on how to use the toolkit, its positive impacts on managing PPE, and the estimated length of time PPE supplies can be sustained throughout your organization.