The **Core Principles of COVID-19 Infection Prevention**

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- **Screening** of all who enter the facility for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 (e.g., temperature checks, questions or observations about signs or symptoms), and denial of entry of those with signs or symptoms
- **Hand hygiene** (use of alcohol-based hand rub is preferred)
- **Face covering or mask** (covering mouth and nose)
- **Social distancing** at least six feet between persons
- **Instructional signage** throughout the facility and proper **visitor education** on COVID-19 signs and symptoms, infection control precautions, other applicable facility practices (e.g., use of face covering or mask, specified entries, exits and routes to designated areas, hand hygiene)
- **Cleaning and disinfecting** high frequency touched surfaces in the facility often, and designated visitation areas after each visit
- Appropriate use of **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**
- **Effective cohorting** of residents (e.g., separate areas dedicated COVID-19 care)
- **Resident and staff testing** are accessible
Personal Protective Equipment

All requests for PPE from DOH must be:

- Emailed to COVIDResourceRequests@state.sd.us,
- Faxed to 605.773.5942, or
- Called in to 605.773.3048 to ensure prioritization and coordination of requests.

- Do not duplicate your request by using all three means of communication.

- Any requests received through any other email or number will all be directed to email COVIDResourceRequests@state.sd.us OR call 605.773.3048 and requesting entities must provide information regarding their current facility status.
Resources for Long Term Care

- Project Echo Clinical Rounds - including a series of sessions focused on nursing facility care: https://hsc.unm.edu/echo/institute-programs/covid-19-response/us-covid19/hhs-aspr/

- Here is the link to the NH Resource Center: https://www.cms.gov/nursing-homes

- and the specific link to the training series: https://qsep.cms.gov/welcome.aspx
Infection Control Assessment & Response (ICAR)

Tool that facilities can use in order to assess and improve their preparedness for responding to COVID-19 and help develop a comprehensive plan.

*Items assessed in the ICAR support the key strategies of:*

- Keeping COVID-19 out of the facility
- Identifying infections as early as possible
- Preventing spread of COVID-19 in the facility
- Assessing and optimizing personal protective equipment (PPE) supplies
- Identifying and managing severe illness in residents with COVID-1
- Can be performed via tele-visit or in-person


Flu? COVID-19? BOTH?! 

As we enter flu season, be aware of other etiologies or concurrent infections in your residents: Consider using these tools to help decide testing and treatment strategies.

https://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/diagnosis/index.htm

Testing and treatment of influenza when SARS-CoV-2 and influenza viruses are co-circulating

- **New** Consolidated Clinical Algorithm for Outpatient Clinic or Emergency Department Patients with Acute Respiratory Illness Symptoms (With or Without Fever)
- **New** Clinical Algorithm for Outpatient Clinic or Emergency Department Patients with Acute Respiratory Illness Symptoms (With or Without Fever) Not Requiring Hospital Admission
- **New** Clinical Algorithm for Patients with Acute Respiratory Illness Symptoms Requiring Hospital Admission (With or Without Fever)
- **New** Testing and Management Considerations for Nursing Home Residents
No Call Next Week – Thursday November 26th

Happy Thanksgiving
Laboratory Guidance
Statewide Priority Populations for SARS-CoV-2 Testing

It is a statewide priority that ALL individuals with symptoms of COVID-19 be tested for SARS-CoV-2 with the recommendation from a health care provider.

- Hospitalized individuals
- Healthcare workers, first responders, and active military
- Critical infrastructure workers in food manufacturing and agriculture
- Individuals in communal living settings like long-term care facilities
- Underinsured or uninsured individuals
- Low-income individuals or individuals unable to pay for testing
- Homeless individuals
SDPHL COVID-19 Testing Priorities

• **Symptomatic** hospitalized patients
• **Symptomatic** healthcare workers, first responders, and active military
• **Symptomatic** individuals in congregate living settings like LTC facilities
• **Symptomatic** individuals with no way to pay for testing

• **Asymptomatic** participants in state-sponsored sentinel surveillance:
  − Long-term care (staff and residents)
  − K-12 schools (adults)
  − Corrections (inmates and staff)
  − Tribes (tribal members)
Community Testing Opportunities

COVID-19 Drive-Thru Mass Testing Events

Pre-registration is required to secure a testing time. Testing is FREE.

Register for a Testing Time

YANKTON - Mall Parking Lot, 2101 Broadway Ave.
November 17 | 12 p.m. – 6 p.m.
November 18 | 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

RAPID CITY - Pennington County Fairgrounds, 800 San Francisco St.
November 20, 21, & 22 | 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
November 23 | 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

CUSTER - Custer Search & Rescue, 1073 Montgomery St.
November 20 | 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

SPEARFISH - Spearfish High School, 1725 N. Main St.
November 21 & 22 | 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

REGISTER FOR A TESTING TIME
To broaden the availability of COVID-19 testing in South Dakota, the Department of Health is considering purchase and placement of the QIAGEN SARS-CoV-2 Antigen Test and eHub device.

- QIAreach SARS-CoV-2 antigen test is a rapid diagnostic test that detects the virus that causes COVID-19
- Upper respiratory specimens collected with a swab and placed in viral transport medium or phosphate buffered saline
- Results are ready in 2-15 minutes
QIAGEN Antigen Testing: Conditions of SDDOH Purchase

• QIAGEN must receive FDA EUA approval for the QIAreach SARS-CoV-2 Antigen Test

• The antigen test must be EUA approved as “waived”

• Nasal specimens need to be recognized as an approved specimen type

• Resources must be made available quickly and in sufficient quantity to meet initial demand

• Resources must be made available for additional monthly purchase to meet on-going demand
QIAGEN Antigen Testing: Result Interpretation

• Like other antigen tests, all QIAGEN antigen test results must be considered in the full context of other clinical and diagnostic information.
  – Negative results mean viral antigen was not detected; for a symptomatic individual in a high-prevalence setting, this may mean a follow-up confirmation test is needed.
  – Positive results mean viral antigen was detected; for an asymptomatic individual in a low prevalence setting, this may mean a follow-up confirmation test is needed.
• CDC continues to provide additional information about antigen tests
  – Antigen tests are a better indicator of “infectiousness” or the ability of an individual to spread virus rather than infection which is an individual’s status as being positive or negative for COVID-19.
QIAGEN Antigen Testing: Priority Groups

SDDOH currently prioritizes the following groups for placement of QIAGEN antigen tests and equipment.

- Health care providers in geographic locations with unmet COVID-19 testing needs
- Federally qualified health centers and other clinics with unmet COVID-19 tests needs that serve rural and/or vulnerable populations
- Front-line medical facilities not covered above
- First responders including law enforcement and EMS providers
- Correctional facilities
- Institutions of higher education
- Commercial food manufacturing, agriculture, and other critical infrastructure

*Groups not listed above will also be considered*
QIAGEN Antigen Testing: Participation Requirements

Organizations must meet the following requirements to qualify for placement of the QIAGEN eHub and antigen testing supplies:

• Have an existing CLIA Certificate of Waiver or be eligible to obtain a waiver
• Identify an appropriate location with your facility to perform testing
• Train one or more adults to perform antigen testing using the QIAGEN eHub
• Obtain and appropriately use personal protective equipment (PPE)
• Perform testing in strict accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions
• Offer testing at no cost to consenting participants
• Appropriately dispose of waste, including soiled PPE
• Report all antigen test results to the SDDOH within 24 hours of antigen testing using the confidential disease reporting website or another method approved by the SDDOH
• Maintain supply inventory and order more tests from the SDDOH or manufacturer as needed
QIAGEN Antigen Testing: Request to Participate

- Organizations that want to be considered for QIAGEN eHub and antigen test placement must reach out to Laurie.Gregg@state.sd.us or Tim.Southern@state.sd.us by 11/25.

- Organizations that are interested in QIAGEN supplies will be asked to complete and submit a short request form.

- Resources may be limited so please apply as soon as possible for consideration.