

LAB ALERT #19: Long-Term Care Sentinel Surveillance Testing (6/22)

NEW – SARS-CoV-2 Sentinel Surveillance in Long-Term Care Facilities. Sentinel surveillance, or random testing, is beginning in many long-term care facilities throughout South Dakota. The following is a summary of information for long-term care facilities that participate in sentinel surveillance.

- All South Dakota nursing homes are required to participate in sentinel surveillance.
- Assisted living facilities can voluntarily participate in sentinel surveillance. Assisted living facilities must email Julie Jenssen at Julie.Jenssen@state.sd.us and Lori Konst at Lori.Konst@state.sd.us to be enrolled in the sentinel surveillance program.
- Specimen collection materials, packaging and shipping supplies, and testing will be provided at no charge to the facility or patient.
- Facilities that participate in sentinel surveillance will receive monthly specimen collection and packaging and shipping supplies from the South Dakota Public Health Laboratory (SDPHL). Monthly supply shipments will include:
 - Twelve (12) tubes of liquid transport media
 - Twelve (12) foam swabs
 - Twelve (12) flocced swabs
 - Twelve (12) small zip-top bags
 - Four (4) Category B shipping boxes
 - Four (4) Tyvek envelopes
 - Four (4) biohazard bags
 - Four (4) ice packs
- Each week, facilities that participate in sentinel surveillance will randomly select two (2) asymptomatic staff members and one (1) asymptomatic resident for specimen collection.
 - Medical orders (individual or standing) are required for specimen collection.
 - Consent is required for specimen collection.
 - Facilities will collect one upper respiratory specimen from each individual.
 - Suitable upper respiratory specimens include:
 - Nasopharyngeal swab, nasal swab, oropharyngeal swab
 - Each specimen must be accompanied by a [Long-Term Care Sentinel Surveillance Requisition](#) and all tubes must be appropriately labeled with the patient name and date of birth.
 - Specimens should be packaged and shipped to the SDPHL for SARS-CoV-2 testing (instructions below).
 - Facilities can ship specimens using the SDPHL courier.
 - SDPHL courier can be reached at 1-877-434-9366 for on-demand service.
 - Sentinel surveillance results will be provided to the submitting facility.
 - Facilities with a [secure fax agreement](#) in place will receive results by fax.
 - Facilities that do not have a secure fax agreement in place will receive test results through the US Postal Service.
 - Facilities will be alerted by phone for any SARS-CoV-2 positive result.

Packaging and Shipping Sentinel Surveillance Specimens

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Label tube with patient information ● Collect specimen and place swab in media. ● Place each tube of media in a small ziptop bag (primary packaging) and seal. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Place all specimens in primary packaging (small ziptop bags) and specimen requisitions into a single, large biohazard ziptop bag. ● Expel as much air as possible before sealing. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Place the biohazard bag with specimens and requisitions into the white Tyvek envelope. ● Seal Tyvek envelope. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Place Tyvek envelope and frozen ice pack inside the Category B box. ● Place white address label on top of box. ● Ship package to SDPHL using the public health laboratory courier 	

Please distribute this LAB ALERT to others in your facility that may need this information.