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Dear Kentucky Long-term Care Facilities,

This letter summarizes current 902 Kentucky Administrative Regulations (KAR) 2:020 communicable disease reporting requirements for laboratories and healthcare providers to the Kentucky Department for Public Health (KDPH) related to respiratory virus reporting, including COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2).

Kentucky public health reporting requirements are distinct from those of the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN). Below are detailed descriptions of current respiratory virus reporting requirements, along with resources for further inquiry.

KDPH Respiratory Virus Reporting Requirements

Requiring immediate reporting to public health:

- COVID-19, influenza and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) outbreaks occurring in healthcare settings, including long-term care facilities.
  - An outbreak is defined as two or more cases, including healthcare-associated infections (HAI), that are epidemiologically linked or connected by person, place or time; or a single case of an HAI or other disease or condition not commonly diagnosed. Confirmatory testing is not required for outbreak reporting.

Requiring priority notification within one business day to public health:

- COVID-19 or influenza-associated mortality in a patient who is less than 18 years of age, pregnant or postpartum (within 3 months of delivery)
- RSV-associated mortality in a patient who is less than 18 years of age

Requiring routine electronic laboratory reporting (ELR) within five business days by conducting laboratory to public health:

- Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), detected by:
  - Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (NAAT), including polymerase chain reaction (PCR)

    - SARS-CoV-2 molecular sequencing
- Laboratory-confirmed influenza, detected by:
    - Reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR)
    - Nucleic acid detection
    - Viral culture
- Laboratory-confirmed RSV, detected by:
    - Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (NAAT), including PCR

NHSN Reporting Requirements:

Requiring weekly reporting:

Long-term care facilities are required to report COVID-19, influenza and RSV data for all residents, including:

- Vaccination status
- Confirmed resident cases (overall and by vaccination status)
- Hospitalized residents with confirmed cases (overall and by vaccination status)

Please see the attached documents for assistance with reporting requirements. Additionally, regional infection preventionists (RIPs) are available to support long-term care facilities. Contact information for your assigned RIP is available at: https://www.chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/dehp/idb/Pages/hai.aspx.

For information on respiratory viruses in Kentucky, visit: www.coveryourcough.ky.gov. For additional NHSN-related inquiries, please email KDPH Outbreak Response Lead Cody Rocha at cody.rocha@ky.gov.

Thank you for all you do in support of the people of Kentucky.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Winter, PhD, MPH
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