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| Long-Term Care Facilities COVID-19 Advisory Group – Meeting Minutes | **december 23, 2020**3:00PM-4:00PM |

**Review and approval of meeting minutes:**

* Reviewed previous meeting minutes and obtained motion to approve minutes. Minutes approved.

**Update on hospital transitions:**

Sara Podczervinski reported out. Goal is consistency in practice.

Two guidance documents have been updated. These were sent out to stakeholders including the LHJs.

**Outbreak** definition updated and applies to all facility types: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/InterimCOVID-HCOutbreak.pdf>

Healthcare facility onset in resident and/or two or more healthcare workers positive (who worked on same unit, as an example, not two workers who are not associated).

**Transfer** guidelines between long-term care and other settings: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/LTCTransferRecs.pdf>

RCS is releasing these updates in a Dear Provider Letter.

WHCA sent these out to all members.

All LHJs received these as well and there was good LHJ representation on the call.

There is a link to the risk assessment template on the transfer document for residents who enter the community.

RCS also reviewed these documents and added them to the Safe Start documents.

Informed consent. LTC transfer stakeholder group discussed. Clear communication with all parties involved – no prescriptive informed consent requirement. Residents should know the whole of the facility they are considering, including COVID status.

The Ombuds is still having families contact them with issues around the compassionate care visits saying they are being restricted from access. Some facility staff are saying it is “company policy” and some are referencing the 28-day outbreak period restriction.

Some facilities have also told the Ombuds that they cannot enter the facility without a negative test. The Ombuds has informed these facilities that this is not correct.

This is a good opportunity for the Ombuds, DSHS and DOH to meet and clarify this as a group.

We want to optimize opportunities for families so long as we can do this safely.

Please continue to push out this information to Supported Living as well.

**Vaccine Update:**

Many facilities are being contracted now – mainly from Walgreens but some from CVS.

Supported Living is reporting getting dates on calendars for shots. Nursing Facilities and Assisted Living as well.

The first three weeks, starting Dec 28th, will be focused on nursing facilities as these are considered the highest risk setting (larger congregate facilities with most vulnerable population)

Restrictions around consent have been eased. The consent can be verbal, can be in writing a day in advance.

There is still some questions about the insurance cards – there may be some relaxation on having to actually produce copies of the insurance card.

Kathy Bay is trying to respond to every email she is receiving as quickly as she can.

Some facilities are hearing that they are not on the list per Walgreens – if facilities are having trouble, they should contact Kathy.

CMS has not issued anything on impact of vaccination on testing requirements (at least they haven’t released anything to RCS).

LeadingAge sent out a survey. Of the 27 survey responses, 18 haven’t heard from a pharmacy yet. These are nursing facilities. Laura Hofmann talked to Kathy Bay about this issue so it is being worked on.

**Updates on vaccination outside federal partnership:**

King County Public Health has some doses for non-partnership.

So far, 304 individuals have come to get vaccinated. Mostly these are adult family homes but a few supported living providers and one assisted living facility.

King County has heard from Walgreens and providers are saying Walgreens is contacting them to schedule.

Adult Family Homes update from John: We are in the process of talking to homes about who is on the list and who isn’t. It is very confusing as to who is even registered.

Supported Living is also this way – very confusing as to who is and who is not on the list.

It is also concerning that the association is hearing that only 20% of Supported Living staff will get the vaccination when it is available.

There is fear that it is not tested enough. There is fear from African American communities over history of government testing them and using them for testing. People are saying they will wait longer to see how it goes.

We definitely need vaccination education in other languages. Supported Living received some materials in Spanish but in King County that is not the language we need.

King County Public Health has many materials in other languages: <https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/covid-19/vaccine.aspx>

King County Public Health also had a conversation with Bea Rector regarding nurse delegators and private duty nurses who are in and out of facilities and we are working to ensure they are getting vaccinated.

Is there any word on reaching the home care workforce?

Per Candy: Bea Rector is working on this with DOH to develop a template to verify an individual is employed as an individual provider (as they don’t have badges or identification) and they can then take this form to get their vaccination.

What about King County Adult Day programs? Not yet, but King County Public Health did send a long list of provider types that should be in group 1a so we can match them with vaccination opportunities.

The Ombuds has been calling Adult Family Homes and they have volunteers who can talk to residents, family members, etc. about the vaccine and provide education. If that would be helpful, reach out.

**Rapid Response Teams:**

All out on assignment. We’ve discovered there is not as large of a need in Eastern WA. There is 1 full team in Spokane. We are putting together an additional two teams for King, Pierce and Snohomish Counties.

The funding will continue until the end of March.

There has been no negative feedback on the staff of these teams – all positive.

We have had a few comments about the email system not working and we fix those as they happen. If you hear of someone who is having trouble accessing the system, let RCS know and they will reach out to the provider directly.

This is a 7 day/week operation and they are working all holidays.