Center for Policy, Planning and Evaluation
Division of Epidemiology–Disease Surveillance and Investigation

July 15, 2020

Health Notice for District of Columbia Health Care Providers
Reporting Laboratory-Confirmed COVID-19 in Healthcare Personnel

SUMMARY

In accordance with DCMR Chapter 22B 201.1(ff) and 201.1 (gg) and as part of the District of Columbia's (DC's) Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) response, healthcare employers must begin timely reporting of all healthcare personnel infected with COVID-19 who work in the District of Columbia. This includes any employer that provides inpatient or outpatient healthcare services and is either licensed by DC Health or functions as an independent private practice through a certificate of need. Information that specific to each healthcare setting can be found on the DC Health COVID-19 Reporting website:
https://dchealth.dc.gov/node/1487006

BACKGROUND
This reporting mandate is being implemented for the following reasons:
1. To support patient safety efforts within DC healthcare facilities
2. To rapidly detect and mitigate COVID-19 outbreaks within DC healthcare facilities
3. To bolster contact tracing efforts within DC and the region
4. To augment surveillance and containment efforts for COVID-19 within DC and the region

Healthcare Personnel (HCP) refers to all paid and unpaid persons serving in healthcare settings who have the potential for direct or indirect exposure to patients or infectious materials, including body substances (e.g., blood, tissue, and specific body fluids); contaminated medical supplies, devices, and equipment; contaminated environmental surfaces; or contaminated air. HCP include, but are not limited to, emergency medical service personnel, nurses, nursing assistants, physicians, technicians, therapists, phlebotomists, pharmacists, students and trainees, contractual staff not employed by the healthcare facility, and persons not directly involved in patient care, but who could be exposed to infectious agents that can be transmitted in the healthcare setting (e.g., clerical, dietary, environmental services, laundry, security, engineering and facilities management, administrative, billing, and volunteer personnel).

REPORTING
Reporting frequency and submission method varies by facility setting; additional details can be found below and on the DC Health COVID-19 Reporting website: https://dchealth.dc.gov/node/1487006.

All deaths in HCP (regardless of facility setting) that are suspected or confirmed to be associated with COVID-19 should be reported within 24 hours to coronavirus.hai@dc.gov. Please be sure to provide the following information in the email: First and last name, email, and direct number (please do not provide a main line number) of the person reporting the death. A member of the DC Health COVID-19 emergency response will reach back out to get the full details of the death report.

Hospitals, home health agencies and hemodialysis facilities should:
- Report cases among healthcare personnel using the line list template located at https://dchealth.dc.gov/node/1487006
- Cases should be reported by 12 pm every Wednesday
- Send the updated line list to coronavirus.hai@dc.gov

Nursing homes and assisted living facilities should:
- Report cases among healthcare personnel using the line list template located at https://dchealth.dc.gov/node/1487006
- Cases should be reported by 3pm daily
- Send the updated line list to coronavirus.hai@dc.gov

Intermediate care facilities and chapter 34 and chapter 35 community residence facilities should:
- Report cases among healthcare personnel using the line list template located at https://dchealth.dc.gov/node/1487006
- Cases should be reported to the Department of Disability Services

Any outpatient facility that is <u>not</u> a hemodialysis facility (e.g., dental, ambulatory surgical center, cancer clinics, and ambulatory care/primary care) should:
- Report cases among healthcare personnel using the online portal located at https://dchealth.dc.gov/node/1487006
- Cases should be reported within 24 hours

INFECTION CONTROL REMINDERS
1. Infection control recommendations vary by facility and activity type and are important to maintain in order to prevent spread of the virus that causes COVID-19 within a healthcare facility. Please review the most recent DC Health Notices (https://dchealth.dc.gov/page/health-notices) and the CDC website (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/infection-control/control-recommendations.html) to find the appropriate information for your facility setting.
2. Local guidance for furloughing HCP due to COVID-19 exposures or positive test results can be found at https://dchealth.dc.gov/node/1477431.

The guidelines above will continue to be updated as the outbreak evolves. Please visit the DC Health (https://dchealth.dc.gov/coronavirus) and CDC COVID-19 websites (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html) for the most current information.

Please contact DC Health regarding COVID-19 at:
Phone: 202-576-1117 Fax: 202-442-8060 | Email: coronavirus@dc.gov