From: Quade, Marty (VDSS) <Marty.Quade@dss.virginia.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 4:29 PM
Subject: COVID-19 and Respiratory Illness Outbreaks

The attached memo is being sent to assisted living facilities, adult day centers, and children's residential facilities from the Virginia Department of Social Services Email Distribution Service.

*****Please do not reply to this email.*****

SCROLL DOWN TO VIEW ATTACHMENT

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

DATE: September 30, 2025

TO: Assisted Living Facilities, Adult Day Centers, and Children's Residential Facilities

FROM: Tara Ragland, Director, Division of Licensing Programs

SUBJECT: COVID-19 and Respiratory Illness Outbreaks

Respiratory illness season is underway, and the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) Division of Licensing Programs (DOLP) has received reports of an increased number of outbreaks of COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses.

Outbreaks should be reported to your licensing representative and the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) within 24 hours of the occurrence. VDH provides two options for reporting suspected outbreaks. Outbreaks can be reported to your local health district by contacting them directly or by using the Suspected Outbreak Reporting Portal.

According to VDH, an outbreak happens when more people than usual get sick with the same illness in a certain area or group over a short period of time. You should monitor illnesses occurring within your facility or program and be alert to any sudden increase in people getting sick at the same time; or two or more people who are showing similar symptoms and share things in common, such as activities, living areas, or schedules. For awareness of respiratory trends in your community, providers can review the VDH Respiratory Illness Dashboard.

Providers with suspected or confirmed outbreaks of COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses should be coordinating with VDH regarding implementation of mitigation strategies, including management of staff with infection or exposure to infections and returning to work.

VDH may schedule a site visit in response to a report of an outbreak to provide mitigation recommendations tailored for that specific setting. Providers are urged to participate in these site visits with VDH to promote the best possible outcomes for residents/participants and staff.

If you have any questions, please contact the DOLP Clinical and Training team at Clinical.Training@dss.virginia.gov.