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## COVID-19 Boosters and Other Infection Control Updates

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To Adult Care Home and Family Care Home Providers,

Below are a number of infection control updates and training opportunities providers may find helpful.

If there are questions regarding the below information, please do not hesitate to contact me at [jeff@ncseniorliving.org](mailto:jeff@ncseniorliving.org) or 919-787-2526.

Jeff Horton, Executive Director  
NC Senior Living Association

### **Updated COVID-19 Boosters Becoming Available for Everyone 12 and Older**

The NC Department of Health and Human Services recently issued a press release ([Click Here](#)) stating that:

*"Updated COVID-19 boosters are becoming available in North Carolina. This vaccine will provide the most up-to-date protection against the latest variants and will help renew your body's defense system against severe illness, hospitalization and death from COVID-19," said North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Kody H. Kinsley. "As the weather gets colder and we spend more time indoors, it is important to know you are protected before you go to gatherings, which means getting your COVID-19 vaccines and boosters.*

*The booster, like all COVID-19 vaccines, is safe to get alongside the annual flu vaccine. People should get their flu vaccine as early as this month to build up immunity before the virus becomes widespread in late fall and winter.*

*"Many of those who are at high risk for serious flu complications — older people, pregnant women and those with compromised immune systems — are also at risk of severe COVID-19 complications," said NCDHHS State Health Director and Chief Medical Officer Dr. Elizabeth Cuervo Tilson. "COVID-19 and flu shots can be taken together, and we encourage all North Carolinians to stay up to date on both."*

*COVID-19 vaccines are free to everyone, regardless of insurance or immigration status. Flu vaccines are often available at little-to-no cost."*

*Appointments for the updated boosters became available this week.*

**North Carolina State Program for Infection Control and Epidemiology (SPICE)**

The state's SPICE program is offering free virtual training on Infection Control in Long Term Care Facilities on from November 7-9, 2022. For further details on the training including how to register, please see below:

## ***Infection Control in Long Term Care Facilities***

### ***Virtual Attendance***

**November 7-9, 2022**

**Get details and register now**

### **COVID-19 Screening Forms**

NCSLA recently received an inquiry from one of our members regarding what to do with all of the COVID-19 screening forms (used for staff, visitors and residents) that have been accumulating in their facility, stating they had boxes and more boxes of the things lying around. Specifically, the provider asked when they could dispose of the forms.

NCSLA contacted Megan Lamphere with the Division of Health Service Regulation's Adult Care Licensure Section and her response is below:

*"I've checked with my team and we don't see why a facility would need to keep these records any longer than 30 days. In fact, if we are surveying this area (screening visitors) we are typically looking at the facility's current practices while we are on-site and do not usually go back and look at these records. So, our recommendation would be to keep those records no more than 30 days."*

Therefore, according to the above response, providers can dispose of these forms after 30 days. However, please make certain that forms with resident protected health information are shredded so as not to breach confidentiality requirements.

### **Infection Control Template Released by Division of Health Service Regulation**

As communicated to members previously, when last year's state budget Session Law 2021-180) was passed, it contained language in Section 9E.7, which updated the Adult Care Home infection control statutes. NCSLA worked with the legislature on this language with the goal and purpose of codifying in statute infection control requirements that not only addressed blood borne pathogens but also addressed other types of infections such as air borne infections, which we experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, NCSLA also made certain the new language placed the responsibility on the NC DHHS and DHSR to develop an infection control policy and procedure template that providers could use to adapt them to their facilities and operations. As a result, DHSR announced this summer that they had finished the infection control policy and procedure template and per NCSLA's recommendation, they worked with state infection control experts in this effort. Below is a communication sent to providers, which also contains a link to the infection control template (a Microsoft Word document that can be customized for each facility).

(From DHSR to providers)

"Dear N.C. Licensed Adult Care Home & Family Care Home Providers:

The Division of Health Service Regulation (DHSR) is pleased to share the release of template infection prevention and control (IPC) policies and procedures for North Carolina's licensed adult care homes and family care homes. The manual of template policies and procedures was developed by the North Carolina Department

Statewide Program for Infection Control and Epidemiology (SPICE), and in consultation with the adult care home provider associations, in response to Session Law 2021-189. The policies and procedures are consistent with the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and address the factors listed in N.C.G.S. 131D-4.4A(b)(1) *Adult Care Home Infection Prevention Requirements*.

The template IPC policies and procedures can be downloaded free of charge from the "Forms and Applications" tab on DHSR Adult Care Licensure Section website at [NCDHHS-Template-IPC-Policies-Procedures-for-ACH-FCH\\_01-2022.docx \(live.com\)](#). Once downloaded, the document can be modified to meet each adult care home and family care homes needs.

Questions related to the infection control template should be sent to:  
[DHSR.AdultCare.Questions@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:DHSR.AdultCare.Questions@dhhs.nc.gov)

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