

Support to Long-Term Care Facilities: LTC RISE

Long-Term Care Facilities (LTCF) have experienced the ravages of the COVID-19 pandemic very acutely. The challenges of caring for our most vulnerable populations in a congregate setting while managing the threat of COVID-19 creates extremely challenging and stressful circumstances. While we are grateful for the efforts of those on the front lines in LTCFs, they need more than our gratitude. It is imperative that LTCFs receive continued support in their efforts as they both battle the COVID-19 pandemic and as they work to recover and rebuild.

The Department of Health recognizes the COVID-19 pandemic is not yet over and we are committed to continuing to support response operations for COVID-19 outbreaks. With funding provided by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) under the 2019 Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity for Prevention and Control of Emerging Infectious Diseases (ELC) – Enhanced Detection Expansion (EDE) grant, the Department will be transitioning from the Regional Congregate Care Teams (RCATs) to a new program, LTC RISE (Long-Term Care Resiliency, Infrastructure Supports, and Empowerment), effective January 1, 2022.

Most facilities eligible for the RCAT program will continue to be eligible for the following LTC RISE COVID-19 prevention and response support operations as provided by the RCATs including assisted living facilities, intermediate care facilities, skilled nursing facilities, older adult daily living centers, personal care homes, and state veterans homes:

1. Each awardee will have a dedicated phone line with 24/7 access, including designated office hours, for inquiries, consultations, and follow up calls from long-term care facilities.
2. Awardees will provide consultation and technical assistance, assessment and feedback, training, and incident management coaching.

Please note, adult training facilities, vocational facilities, and community homes for intellectual disability or autism are eligible for engagement at the provider organization level.

The Department also recognizes the crucial need to support enhancing long-term care facility resiliency and self-reliance with the purpose of preventing and effectively responding to COVID-19 and other infectious disease outbreaks. Therefore, as part of LTC RISE, awardees will also be providing quality improvement project opportunities to interested skilled nursing facilities, intermediate care facilities, personal care homes, and assisted living facilities in the following areas:



1. Promoting professional development and a resilient long-term care facility workforce.
2. Implementing infection prevention and control and emergency preparedness best practices to enhance delivery of resident-centered care.
3. Building a sustainable outbreak response operation construct that meets the facility's needs.

The LTC RISE program is a partnership between the Department of Health (DOH), Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS), Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) and four healthcare organizations. The healthcare organizations have established partnerships covering six regions across Pennsylvania to support preventative and emergent assistance for LTCFs.

- Penn Medicine in partnership with Temple Health
- Penn State Health
- LECOM Health
- AMI Expeditionary Healthcare

To access call center information and the counties covered by each healthcare organization, please visit the [LTC RISE webpage](#).

Facilities should aim to procure resources independently through the commercial market as part of their sustainable outbreak operations. When barriers or limitations exist, testing support, PPE, and staff augmentation remain available. Requests can be made through the following links:

- [Testing Needs Assessment Form](#)
- [PPE Critical Needs Assessment Form](#)
- [Pennsylvania Long-Term Care Task Force Staffing Support Request](#)
- In addition to the services outlined above, the Department of Health is operationalizing a capability to provide access to COVID-19 therapeutics to residents of Long-term Care Facilities. With the recent approval of oral antiviral medications for COVID-19, DOH is holding product in strategic reserve at a DOH warehouse specifically intended to be used by residents of LTC facilities and other congregate care settings. Upon receipt of a request for mediation, DOH will ship product same day or next day to the LTC facility. Due to the nature of medications, product is only appropriate for residents within five days of symptom onset. To request oral antiviral medications from DOH, please use this [link](#).

For questions regarding the COVID vaccine for your facility, visit the [COVID-19 Vaccine Data and Strategy for Long-Term Care Facilities](#). To be matched with a vaccine partner, complete the [PA Long-Term Care Facility State COVID-19 Vaccination Partnership](#), or email to rahcovidvax@pa.gov.