

**TO:** Vermont Health Care Providers and Health Care Facilities  
**FROM:** Patsy Kelso, PhD; State Epidemiologist

### **Update of Recommendations for COVID-19 Testing in Long-term Care Facilities**

This Health Update provides an update to recommendations included in the Health Update of [March 22, 2021](#).

**Skilled Nursing Facilities, Assisted Living Residences, Residential Care Homes, and Therapeutic Community Residences** should continue the following surveillance strategies:

1. Continue once weekly PCR testing of all staff *who are not fully vaccinated* unless more frequent testing is required by CMS.
2. Use antigen tests immediately upon identification of a symptomatic resident or staff person.

**Long-term care facilities no longer need to include their fully vaccinated staff in surveillance testing.**

#### **REQUESTED ACTION:**

1. Be aware that long-term care facilities no longer need to include their fully vaccinated staff in surveillance testing.

If you have any questions, please contact the HAN Coordinator at 802-859-5900 or [vthan@vermont.gov](mailto:vthan@vermont.gov).

#### **HAN Message Type Definitions**

*Health Alert:* Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

*Health Advisory:* Provides important information for a specific incident or situation may not require immediate action.

*Health Update:* Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

*Info Service Message:* Provides general correspondence from VDH, which is not necessarily considered to be of an emergent nature.