

April 15th News Alert from Infection Prevention Specialist

Partnership with Health Care Quality Units

ODP Announcement 22-042

AUDIENCE:

All Interested Stakeholders

PURPOSE:

To announce the April 15th News Alert for providers to assist in managing and developing infection control strategies, including COVID-19.

DISCUSSION:

A News Alert from the Infection Prevention Specialist Partnership with Health Care Quality Units has been released with information regarding sites performing Covid testing, Up to date COVID-19 vaccine booster dose recommendations, and the Powassan Virus (POW). See attached.

The Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) has received funding through a Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) grant from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) appropriation under the 2019 Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity for Prevention and Control of Emerging Infectious Diseases (ELC) - Enhanced Detection Expansion (EDE) Grant.

This grant funding is being used to build capacity and provide additional support for infection prevention and control through the Health Care Quality Units (HCQUs) in partnership with a team of infection prevention specialists from Infectious Disease (ID) Connect. This project will run through June 2023.

The goals of the program include a focus on:

1. Infection Prevention, Preparedness and Response
2. Education and Training

ID Connect will:

- provide enhanced technical support and guidance to ODP’s providers and other stakeholders, coordinated through the HCQUs staff in the areas of infection prevention and response, including but not limited to COVID-19, influenza, and norovirus infections.
- build capacity within the HCQUs by providing ongoing education and guidance to HCQU staff.
- assist providers who are in need of COVID-19 outbreak support and guidance. Support will be coordinated by the HCQUs and if needed may request additional information to submit the information to ID Connect for further input.
- provide regular townhall meetings for ODP stakeholders on topics related to infection prevention and control.
- distribute updates and alerts to stakeholders regarding infection prevention and control.

CONTACT:

For more information, please contact your regional HCQU.

HCQU	Counties Served	Website
KEPRO Southwest Health Care Quality Unit	▪ Westmoreland, Allegheny, Bedford/Somerset, Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Washington	https://hcqu.kepro.com/

Milestone West Health Care Quality Unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Butler, Armstrong/Indiana, Beaver, Clarion, Venango, Crawford, Mercer, Lawrence 	http://milestonepa.org/health-care-quality-units/milestone-hcqu-west
Central PA Health Care Quality Unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Northumberland, Blair, Centre, Columbia/Montour/Snyder/Union, Huntingdon/Mifflin/Juniata, Lycoming/Clinton, Schuylkill 	https://www.geisinger.org/patient-care/for-professionals/professional-resources/about-healthcare-quality-unit
Eastern PA Health Care Quality Unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carbon/Monroe/Pike, Berks, Lehigh, Northampton 	http://www.easternpa-hcqu.org/
Northeast PA Health Care Quality Unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lackawanna/Susquehanna, Bradford/Sullivan, Luzerne/Wyoming, Tioga, Wayne 	http://www.nepa-hcqu.org/
Philadelphia Coordinated Health (PCHC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Philadelphia, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery 	http://www.pchc.org/
South Central PA Health Care Quality Unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cumberland/Perry, Adams/York, Dauphin, Franklin/Fulton, Lancaster, Lebanon 	http://www.southcentralpa-hcqu.org/
Milestone Northwest Health Care Quality Unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clearfield/Jefferson, Forest/Warren, Cameron/Elk, McKean, Erie, Potter 	http://milestonepa.org/health-care-quality-units/milestone-hcqu-northwest