

Support to Long-Term Care Facilities: Extension of Regional Congregate Care Assistance Teams (RCAT)

Long-term care facilities (LTCF) have experienced the challenges 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 incredibly challenging, 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 to battle the COVID-19 pandemic.

Under funding provided by 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, the Regional Congregate Care Assistance Teams (RCAT) will continue to provide COVID-19 prevention, preparation-for and response support to Facilities from July 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021. Those facilities eligible for the RCAT and RRCHP programs will continue to be eligible for RCAT prevention and response support.

The RCATs will help facilities by supporting COVID-19 readiness and response, improve quality of care, and implement strategies for infection prevention and mitigation, including best practices for quarantine and isolation. The strategies include, but are not limited to, infection control consultation and implementation, collaboration to identify treatment options, alternate care settings and opportunities for mutual aid as per exiting RCAT frameworks.

Coverage remains the same as the RCAT program continues to remain in place. Support is continuing to be provided by ten health systems: LECOM, UPMC (including Allegheny Health Network, Excelsa, and Penn Highlands), Penn State Health, University of Pennsylvania (including Temple), Thomas Jefferson (including Main Line Health) and Geisinger.

Staffing, Testing and PPE Requests	
PPE	Please complete the PPE critical needs assessment form .
Testing	Where needed, RCATs will provide guidance and training to facilities to improve data management as it relates to test results and isolation and quarantine periods. At present, requests will only be considered in urgent situations. Please complete the Testing Needs Assessment Form .
COVID Vaccine	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 ra-dhccovidvax@pa.gov . Vaccine administration through the RCAT program is not permitted under ELC-EDE funding.
Rapid Response Teams	Rapid Response Teams will be deployed to visit and assess facilities identified by the Department of Health or the Department of Human Services. Support may be provided by the RCAT as a combination of virtual and onsite assistance.
Staff Augmentation	RCATs will work with facilities where an outbreak has occurred to assess, consult, and identify appropriate staffing and link any identified staffing needs to appropriate and

	available state resources, in addition to incorporating staffing strategies and best practices. Please note the RCATs will not be providing any direct clinical care to facility residents or staff as direct clinical care is not allowable under ELC-EDE funding.
Onsite Consultations for Facilities	RCATs will provide onsite consultations to facilities identified as in need of additional consultation to develop or maintain the capability and capacity to respond to an outbreak.
Alternate Care Settings	RCATs may identify alternate care settings and opportunities for mutual aid where necessary and practicable.
All Hazard Plans	RCATs are available to collaborate with facilities to identify ideal components of a facility All Hazard Plan, and to confirm plans are inclusive of policies and procedures for surveillance and detection of emerging infections.

Facilities are encouraged to contact their RCAT by calling the telephone number below that corresponds to the counties in which your facility is located. Regional Call Centers will be available to provide direct support and assistance 24/7.

RCAT Health System Call Centers		
Health System	Counties Covered	Telephone Numbers
UPMC	Clarion, Fayette, Greene, Somerset, Venango	412-648-6714
Allegheny Health Network (AHN)	Armstrong, Beaver, Clearfield, Indiana, Jefferson	866-496-1766
UPMC/AHN	Allegheny, Butler, Cambria, Lawrence, Mercer, Washington, Westmoreland	412-648-6714 or 866-496-1766
LECOM Health	Cameron, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, McKean, Warren	814-451-1595
Thomas Jefferson University/Mainline Health	Berks, Delaware, Montgomery, Philadelphia *, Schuylkill	215-395-8548
Geisinger	Bradford, Carbon, Centre, Clinton, Columbia, Lackawanna, Lehigh, Lycoming, Luzerne, Monroe, Montour, Northampton, Northumberland, Pike, Potter, Snyder, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Union, Wayne, Wyoming	570-271-6009
University of Pennsylvania/ Temple University Hospital	Bucks, Chester, Lancaster, Philadelphia *	215-707-1300
Penn State Health	Adams, Bedford, Blair, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lebanon, Mifflin, Perry, York	717-265-8577

***Philadelphia county is split as follows:**

Thomas Jefferson University/Mainline Health - Bustleton, Cedarbrook/Mt. Airy, Center City, Chestnut Hill, East Falls, East Germantown, East Passyunk, Faimount, Frankford, Germantown, Girard Estates, Kensington, Old City/Center city, Penny Pack, Penny Pack Park, Point Breeze, Rhawnhurst, Somerton and West Torresdale.

University of Pennsylvania/ Temple University Hospital - East Oak Lane, Fairmount, Fox Chase, Kingsessing, Ogontz, Olney, Overbrook, Roxborough, Tioga/Hunting Park, West Mount Airy, West Phila and Wynnefield.