



WEEK OF MARCH 18, 2020

I wanted to share some resources with you.

1. N-95 masks: OSHA has waived the annual fit test which means that if the person had an initial fit test to determine the mask test more than a year ago and their face hasn't changed in shape, the annual fit test is waived. If your staff is fit tested with one type of N95 and now you have another type, you must fit test the staff who will be wearing them. I double checked with ConnOSHA and they verified what I just wrote here.
2. PPE: Patient gowns can be worn if you are out of the disposable gowns, but they must be washed after each use. Here is the guidance on Strategies Optimizing PPE: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/index.html>
3. Influenza activity is still widespread – 184 influenza hospitalizations were reported last week and 2 influenza-related deaths. <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DPH/EEIP/FLU/thisweeksfluupdate.pdf?la=en>
4. DPH will be redoing the PUI form- you need to only report lab confirmed cases.

I am getting phone calls from LTC staff upset that information isn't being shared with them and they are told they still have to work even if exposed to COVID 19 (which is true). Please encourage administration to keep them informed.

Here are the CDC key points from this week: https://higherlogicdownload.s3-external-1.amazonaws.com/NACCHO/3.18.2020.%20CDC_COVID-19_Daily%20Key%20Points1.pdf?AWSAccessKeyId=AKIAVRDO7IEREB57R7MT&Expires=1584703293&Signature=459dV%2BUdAG43GiP0m9pTtNjvsbQ%3D

Here is an article just published in MMWR about COVID 19 in a LTC Facility in King County, WA:

https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6912e1.htm?s_cid=mm6912e1_w

COVID-19 Update March 19, 2020

As of March 19, 2020, a total of 159 laboratory-confirmed cases of COVID-19 have been reported among Connecticut residents (Table 1). Patients resided in 7 out of 8 Connecticut counties. Thirty-two patients were hospitalized and three residents of Fairfield County have died.

Among 159 laboratory-confirmed cases, 46 were tested at the Dr. Katherine A. Kelley State Public Health Laboratory. The State Public Health Laboratory has tested a total of 613 specimens for COVID-19. Hospital and commercial laboratories also are offering testing for COVID-19 in Connecticut.

Table 1. Laboratory-Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 in Connecticut

As of 3/19/2020 10AM. Includes patients tested at the State Public Health Laboratory, Hospital, and Commercial Laboratories

County	Laboratory Confirmed Cases	Hospitalized Cases	Deaths
Fairfield County	102	14	3
Hartford County	18	8	0
Litchfield County	7	1	0
Middlesex County	3	0	0
New Haven County	23	9	0

New London County	0	0	0
Tolland County	4	0	0
Windham County	2	0	0
Total	159	32	3

KEEP UP THE GOOD FIGHT!! YOU ARE THE SUBJECT MATTER EXPERT- DON'T BE AFRAID TO SPEAK UP AND BE FIRM ABOUT CERTAIN PRACTICES.

Take care everyone!!

Kristin C. Magnussen MSN, RN
Communicable Disease Prevention Supervisor
Public Health Emergency Preparedness and MRC Coordinator
Ledge Light Health District
216 Broad Street
New London, CT. 06320
860.448.4882 main
860.448.4885 fax
kmagnussen@llhd.org