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Sent: Wednesday, June 24, 2020 11:16 AM

To: Walker, Yvonne

Cc: Rivera, Kristanna@CDPH <Kristanna.Rivera@cdph.ca.gov>

Subject: Notice re: COVID-19 Testing in Skilled Nursing Facilities Union

Greetings:

As part of the ongoing COVID-19 response and Contact Tracing efforts, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) will be conducting COVID-19 testing and direct case management at Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNF). Many local county health departments do not have the capacity to support the required testing in the SNFs, especially in rural areas. Facilities will need to rely on assistance from labs, local county health departments and CDPH for assistance in specimen collection. Due to the requirements of this assignment, CDPH will be providing out of class assignments to the Public Health Nurse II classification to conduct the testing. The out of class assignments will be offered to the Health Facilities Evaluator Nurses (HFENs) and each assignment will last three to four months. The anticipated effective date of implementation of the out of class assignments is on or about July 15, 2020, and COVID-19 testing in the SNFs by HFENs is anticipated to last for approximately six months. Every effort will be made to deploy HFENs to SNFs within the geographic area of their district office or adjacent district office.

CDPH will solicit interest in the out of class assignment by sending information to all HFENs. Depending on the number of HFENs interested in the assignment, the below selection criteria will be used:

- Travel up to 85% of the time to facilities and labs
- Overnight travel as necessary
- Work onsite with facilities
- Complete Healthcare Associated Infection Prevention competency
- Maintain current work assignments
- No documented performance issues within the last 12 months
- Recent direct patient care experience (within last 7 years) and/or past experience collecting specimens
- State seniority (most senior HFENs selected first)

HFENs selected for this assignment will be required to undergo a medical clearance, be fit tested for an N95 mask, and complete video training on collection of nasopharyngeal swab specimen. CDPH will provide masks, gowns, gloves, and safety glasses or face shields to all HFENs and the department has an adequate supply of personal protective equipment for all HFENs.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Christina Montserrat, Chief
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