

VCHIP CHAMP VDH COVID-19

October 6, 2021 | 12:15-12:45pm Call Questions and Answers*

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Questions/Discussion

Q: Could we review isolation guidelines for people who have tested positive for COVID-19 in the past and then have another exposure? Do we treat them like vaccinated if recent COVID-19 infection was within 3 months?

A: Breena Holmes, MD, VCHIP: Yes, people who have had COVID in the past 90 days do not quarantine when they are close contacts. And, we do not test them, although if symptoms develop, they need medical assessment to determine clinical risk of COVID and whether to test.

Q: As a school academy nurse, I'd like to start Test to Stay rapid antigen testing, as I'm having to exclude disadvantaged kids. Should I still continue surveillance testing? What would be the primary goal of the surveillance testing at this point?

A: Becca (Rebecca) Bell, MD, UVM Medical Center: I personally think TTS has huge impact and that surveillance testing would be lower on my list in terms of impact. Happy to talk to you more about this.

A: Breena Holmes, MD, VCHIP: Ben/Bill/Becca can share their perspective. Some schools are figuring out a way to do both surveillance testing and Test to Stay. If need to prioritize, we are in favor of the Test to Stay approach! The surveillance testing goal is another tool but not as impactful.

Q: Is there any specific current recommendation re timing of COVID vaccine following COVID disease?

A: Breena Holmes, MD, VCHIP: From CDC, yes, you should be vaccinated regardless of whether you already had COVID-19 because: "Research has not yet shown how long you are protected from getting COVID-19 again after you recover from COVID-19. Vaccination helps protect you even if you've already had COVID-19. Evidence is emerging that people get better protection by being fully vaccinated compared with having had COVID-19. One study showed that unvaccinated people who already had COVID-19 are more than 2 times as likely than fully vaccinated people to get COVID-19 again. If you were treated for COVID-19 with monoclonal antibodies or convalescent plasma, you should wait 90 days before getting a COVID-19 vaccine. Talk to your doctor if you are unsure what treatments you received or if you have more questions about getting a COVID-19 vaccine."

A: Breena Holmes, MD, VCHIP: Just the reminder about monoclonal AB treatment and waiting 90 days.

Q: Any concern about confusion with using 'quarantine' vs 'isolation' for people with COVID-19? ('Quarantine' is commonly used for close contacts of those with COVID-19.)

A: Breena Holmes, MD, VCHIP: That is a good point. I wonder if you were referencing back up to the first question about people who have tested positive in the past. The above was talking about quarantine guidelines, not isolation, because the person described above does not currently have COVID. If there is one thing we have learned it, is that communication matters.

Re: We are one of the practices who have struggled with the sheer number of cases needing to be cleared and have decided that for kids <12 years old and asymptomatic or minimal symptoms, we will

*Note: This is a paraphrased synopsis of the call and is not a word-for-word transcription.



only have triage nurse clearance and "cleared for return to sports" letter, not the full algorithm. So far, this works well and helps both parents and practice.

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