



Communicable Disease Branch Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Weekly Key Points
April 27, 2021

Regional Infection Prevention Support Team Update & Best Practices

Since August 2020, Regional Infection Prevention Support, or RIPS, Teams have been placed in each of North Carolina's 10 public health regions to provide on-site infection prevention and control assistance, training, and consultation to all types of long-term care facilities, particularly those facility types that do not have trained medical staff. Under our guidance, these Teams use evidence-based infection control procedures consistent with applicable CDC, CMS and HHS guidance to bolster infection prevention knowledge and practices, thereby reducing morbidity and mortality. The training and visits conducted by these RPS Teams are educational and consultative and are not regulatory or punitive in nature.

We currently have 1 state coordinator and 34 regional staff. To date, RIPS Teams have conducted initial outreach to over 2,300 long-term care facilities and 712 on-site visits. Additionally, these team members have been instrumentally engaged with vaccine distribution planning and implementation.

If you have questions about these teams or would like to connect with the team in your region, please contact Caroline Colburn, RIPS Team Coordinator, at caroline.colburn@dhhs.nc.gov or at 919-737-4548.

While conducting site visits, RIPS Teams have identified some facilities with outstanding infection prevention and vaccine practices! We wanted to recognize those facilities for their excellence in providing care to their residents, families, and staff. Excellence was defined as identification of no or few infection prevention gaps, no or few cases of COVID throughout the pandemic, and/or vaccination of all residents and staff.

Congratulations to these facilities for a job well done!

Rose Tara Senior Living, *King*
Jace Healthcare Services III, *Durham*
Soundview Family Care Home, *Flat Rock*
Trinity Place, *Albemarle*
Sweet Caroline Assisted Living Facility, *Shelby*
Kings Mountain Family Care Home, *Shelby*
Elmcroft of Cramerton, *Cramerton*
Serenity Family Care, *Hickory*
Sharon Towers, *Charlotte*
Elmcroft of Little Avenue, *Charlotte*
Brookdale Weddington Park, *Matthews*
Ranson Ridge Assisted Living, *Huntersville*
Terrace Ridge Assisted Living, *Gastonia*
Highgrove Long-term Care Center, *Rockingham*
Accordius Health at Gastonia, *Gastonia*
Brookdale Reidsville, *Rockingham*
Valley Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, *Taylorsville*
Mint Hill Senior Living, *Mint Hill*
UNC Rockingham Rehabilitation & Nursing Care Center, *Rockingham*