State Partnerships to Support COVID-19 Prevention and Response in Nursing Homes

2:00 – 3:00 PM ET

June 30, 2020
Introduction and Welcome

Traci Archibald
iQIIG, Director
Division of Community and Population Health
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Our topics for today include:

- HAI/AR prevention program COVID-19 response activities and resources for nursing homes
- QIO Program COVID-19 prevention activities and resources for nursing homes
- Opportunities for coordination and partnership (examples could include provider outreach, Tele-ICAR activities and NHSN support)
Joseph F. Perz, DrPH MA
Deputy Chief, Public Health Programs,
Prevention and Response Branch
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CDC and HAI/AR prevention program COVID-19 response activities and resources for nursing homes

Joe Perz, DrPH
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

For more information: www.cdc.gov/COVID19
CDC and our Health Department partners thank frontline Nursing Home Staff and Administrators across the US

CDC thanks our State/Local Health Department and other partners for supporting Nursing Homes

Public Health Approach:
- Prevention
- Surveillance
- Response
Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Preparing for COVID-19 in Nursing Homes

Summary of Changes to the Guidance:

- Tiered recommendations to address nursing homes in different phases of COVID-19 response
- Added a recommendation to assign an individual to manage the facility's infection control program
- Added guidance about new requirements for nursing homes to report to the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN)
- Added a recommendation to create a plan for testing residents and healthcare personnel for SARS-CoV-2

Mini Webinar Series — COVID-19 Prevention Training for Long-Term Care Staff

Sparkling Surfaces (7 min) - https://bit.ly/2yuJKj2
- Keep long-term care and nursing home residents healthy by knowing how and when to clean and disinfect environmental and equipment surfaces.

Clean Hands (7 min) - https://bit.ly/35JzNgH
- Keep long-term care and nursing home residents healthy by knowing how and when to perform hand hygiene as part of preventing the spread of COVID-19.

Closely Monitor Residents (7 min) - https://bit.ly/3hodKI...
- Learn the importance of recognizing new or worsening infections quickly in long-term care facilities and nursing homes. The earlier sick residents can be identified, the faster COVID-19 can be prevented from spreading throughout the facility.

- Learn what staff, vendors, and consultants should do to protect residents and keep COVID-19 out of the facility. Understand the importance of wearing facemasks and cloth face coverings appropriately.

PPE Lessons (12 min) - https://bit.ly/2zn9yiQ
- Learn what personal protective equipment (PPE) should be used in long-term care facilities and nursing homes as well as when and how to use PPE correctly to help protect yourself and residents from COVID-19.

- You can also watch the videos on CDC’s YouTube Channel: https://www.youtube.com/user/CDCStreamingHealth
https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/ltc/covid19/index.html
Health Department Notifications for COVID-19

- Engage public health as soon as a single COVID-19 case is identified or a cluster of illness is noticed (≥ 3 residents or HCP with new-onset respiratory symptoms)
- Residents, families and staff should be made aware of COVID cases
  - Should be part of the facility’s communication plan
Responding to Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Nursing Homes

Considerations for the Public Health Response to COVID-19 in Nursing Homes

Related Pages

- Performing Facility-wide SARS-CoV-2 Testing in Nursing Homes
- Responding to Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Nursing Homes
- Considerations for Memory Care Units in Long-term Care Facilities
- Testing for Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Nursing Homes
- Key Strategies for Long-term Care Facilities
- Infection Prevention and Control Assessment Tool for Nursing Homes Preparing for COVID-19

Background

This guidance is intended to assist nursing homes and public health authorities with response and cohorting decisions in nursing homes. This guidance supplements but does not replace recommendations included in the Interim Additional Guidance for Infection Prevention and Control for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19 in Nursing Homes.

All facilities should adhere to current CDC infection prevention and control recommendations, including universal source control measures: visitor restrictions; screening of residents and HCP; and promptly notifying the health department [164 Kb, 3 pages] about any of the following:

- Resident or HCP with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.
- Resident with severe respiratory infection resulting in hospitalization or death.
- ≥3 residents or HCP with new-onset respiratory symptoms within 72 hours of each other.

These situations should prompt further investigation and testing for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

Resident Cohorting

Considerations for establishing a designated COVID-19 care unit for residents with confirmed COVID-19.

Healthcare-Associated Infections & Antibiotic Resistance (HAI/AR) Programs in Health Departments

- CDC-funded HAI/AR Programs are in 50 states, 5 large cites, DC, 3 territories
  - Surveillance, outbreak response, and containment
  - Partnerships and complementary activities with quality improvement organizations (CMS)
  - Data-driven prevention projects, including use of NHSN data for action
  - Infection prevention and control assessments across healthcare settings
    - Focused specialization in nursing homes
Infection Control Assessment and Response (ICAR)

- **Standardized assessment tools** for multiple different healthcare settings: acute care hospitals, nursing homes, outpatient
- Historically done in person
  - Assess infection prevention practices
  - **Guide quality improvement activities**
  - Foster a relationship between healthcare facilities and HAI programs
- CDC developed an **ICAR tool specific for nursing homes and COVID-19**, and structured with prompts to facilitate assessment by phone and video chat – called tele-ICAR

HAI Program COVID-19 ICAR Activity in Long-Term Care Facilities (LTCFs)

- Response ICARs in LTCF performed by HDs in 43 states and 5 local or territorial health departments
- Prevention ICARs in LTCF performed by HDs in 40 states and 6 local or territorial health departments
  - >4300 preparedness ICARs

Note: These data were provided by health department HAI Programs to CDC. For health departments that did not report data on a given survey, data were carried forward where possible. Data do not include any reports from Guam, Mariana Islands, or Marshall Islands.
CDC Tele-ICAR Process and Findings

- From April 6 to June 18, CDC performed tele-ICARs for 699 nursing homes in 19 states
- Identified common gaps in core IPC practices and COVID-19 PPE use
  - Preference for hand washing over alcohol-based hand sanitizer
  - Unknown disinfectant contact times
  - Correct use of PPE and PPE optimization strategies
- Approximately 70% of facilities that received follow-up call reported making changes after ICAR
Thank you!

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
Open Discussion and Questions to Run On

• What are some best practices you have applied to implementing the Tele-ICAR during the pandemic?
Alliant Health Solutions: The QIN-QIO for Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, North Carolina, and Tennessee

Jeana Partington, MS, BSN, RN, CPHQ, CPPS
Program Director for Alabama, Florida, and Louisiana
COVID-19 Preparedness and Response in Alabama Nursing Homes

Partners:
- Alabama Department of Public Health
- Mobile/Jefferson County Epidemiologists
- CDC Field Team and Support
- Alliant QIN-QIO
- Alabama Nursing Home Association
- Alabama Nursing Homes, residents, and staff
Alabama Partnerships for Nursing Home Infection Control and Prevention Support

- CDC reviewed Alabama regarding trends in the tele-ICAR results
- CDC reached out to Alliant Quality to plan a strategic response for supporting the Alabama nursing homes
- Initial discussion with HAI/AR program, Alliant QIN-QIO, Licensing and Certification, Nursing Home Association (ANHA) to discuss goals (5/14)
- ANHA organized call with providers to discuss the opportunities for working with ADPH/CDC and solicited volunteers to participate in onsite assessment (5/15). Many corporations were most interested in learning together.
- ADPH team engaged and coordinated with Alabama Dept. of Public Health and District/County health departments around the state to participate in visits and IPC/PPE training (5/18)
- CDC team connected with 24 volunteer facilities
  - Conducted over 10 days at the end of May including Memorial Day! COVID-19 does not take a holiday or summer break.
Alabama Partnerships for Nursing Home Infection Control and Prevention Support

Goals:

✓ Evaluate the COVID-19 preparedness and response efforts.
✓ Utilize infection control assessment tool to review IPC practices, capacity and readiness to care for residents with COVID-19 infection.
✓ Work with nursing home providers to discuss challenges with implementation of infection prevention and management practices.

Initial Lessons Learned:

❖ Partnership between public health and nursing home partners can build capacity to support and care of patients and residents with COVID-19 infection

❖ Struggles with basic infrastructure and capacity – PPE supplies, staffing shortages, cleaning supplies, lack of hand sinks in patient rooms, separate locations for donning and doffing, etc.
Next Steps:

• 6/16/2020: Implementation of Office Hours: Lessons learned call was held with CDC and Alabama Department of Health to share the findings of the 24 visits that were made, photos and genuine appreciation shared

• COVID-19 Office Hour calls held every Tuesday and Thursday (30 minutes)
  • NHSN
  • Updated CDC Guidelines
  • Identified topics of interest and concern

• Monthly HAI Huddle (30 minutes)
  • First huddle held on Friday, June 26, 2020
  • Facilitated by Alliant with a topic selected by Alabama DPH
Alabama Partnerships for Nursing Home Infection Control and Prevention Support

Contact:

Jeana Partington
919-745-4729
Jeana.Partington@alliantquality.org
Erica Washington, MPH, CPH, CIC, CPHQ, FAPIC
Healthcare-Associated Infections & Antibiotic Resistance
Program Coordinator
Open Discussion and Questions to Run On

• What do you find most helpful in the open Office Hour calls?
Health Services Advisory Group (HSAG)

Jennifer Wieckowski, MSG
Senior Executive Director, California
Health Services Advisory Group (HSAG)
NHSN Enrollment

- Assistance to meet May 17 enrollment deadline
- Partnership to meet June 7 reporting deadline
  - CDPH Center for Health Care Quality Licensing and Certification Division
  - CDPH HAI Program
  - CAHF
  - CDC NHSN Help Desk
- Assistance included
  - Phone calls
  - Email and eblast reminders
  - Webinars

May 31 not enrolled

June 7 not enrolled

Source: CDPH
California Weekly Nursing Home Infection Preventionist Educational Calls

- **CDPH All Facilities Letter (AFL) 20-50.1**
- **Weekly calls every Thursday—started May 7**
  - CDPH Licensing and Certification Division
  - CDPH HAI Program
  - CALTCM
  - HSAG
- **Weekly webinars every Wednesday—started June 24**
- **Purpose**
  - Provide just-in-time education and guidance
  - Opportunity to ask questions fielded by experts
Open Discussion and Questions to Run On

• What assistance do you find most helpful with NHSN enrollment and data entry for COVID-19?
Sheila McLean, MBA, LNHA, CPHQ
HQL, Vice President

Karen Southard, RN, MHA, CPHQ
Program Director, CCME
South Carolina HQIN
Health Quality Innovation Network
Partnerships in South Carolina

1. Partners meet weekly to discuss:
   - Updates on nursing homes with COVID-19
   - Challenges for facilities with outbreaks
   - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Infection Control Assessment and Response (ICAR) Tool
   - Infection control and prevention educational needs

2. Activities include:
   - Statewide process to request N95 fit testing through the National Guard
   - Review of CDC National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) data reporting to address emerging issues
   - Education addressing gaps in infection control practices
Partnerships in Virginia

1. Coordination
   - ICARS
   - NHSN enrollment and reporting
   - Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
   - Infection Control Quality Improvement Initiatives

2. Collaboration
   - Guide on Hospital Transfer and Admission of Patients to LTCFs During COVID-19 Emergency
   - Hospital to LTCF Transfer – COVID-19 Assessment
Thank you!

Sheila McLean, MBA, LNHA, CPHQ  
Vice President, HQI  
smclean@hqi.solutions

Karen Southard, RN, MHA, CPHQ  
Program Director, CCME  
ksouthard@hqin.org
CONNECT WITH US
Call 877.731.4746 or visit www.hqin.org

@HQINetwork
Health Quality Innovation Network
Pat Kopp, BSMT (ASCP), CIC
Infection Preventionist
HAI Section
Department of Acute Disease Epidemiology
Sarah File Lineberger, MPH
HAI Program Manager
Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAI) and Antimicrobial Resistance (AR) Program
Division of Clinical Epidemiology
Open Discussion and Questions to Run On

- Based on what you have heard today, please share how this may impact your work going forward.
Conclusion

• CMS, CDC, the QIN-QIOs and the State HAI/AR Prevention Programs are here to assist nursing homes.
• Connecting with local stakeholders can be a key to improving outcomes and remaining viable during the COVID-19 pandemic.
• The Learning & Action Network (LAN) Events give us another opportunity to hear from you and what you need, as well as an opportunity to hear how others are being successful.
• It was our pleasure to provide a robust presentation. We will plan additional LANs and we look forward to you joining us.
Thank You

Your opinion is valuable to us. Please take a moment to complete the post event assessment here:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/06_30_20

We will use the information you provide to improve future events.