



**Quality Improvement
Organizations**

Sharing Knowledge. Improving Health Care.
CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES

SUPERIOR HEALTH
Quality Alliance

Nursing Home Leadership Roundtable: Infection Control and Immunization Practices in Nursing Homes

Constance Tetrev, RN, RN-NT, IPC, Innovative Insights Consulting
Sept. 27, 2023



Infection Control and Immunization Practices in Nursing Homes

Constance Tetrev, RN, RN-NT, IPC, Certified Instructor of CBRF Classes, and AHA Certified Instructor for CPR, Certified Reviewer HRST

CEO at Innovative Insights Consulting

9/28/23

Objectives



Increase

- Increase understanding of infection control (IPC) measures.

Enhance

- Enhance knowledge about the role Long Term Care (LTC) and Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNF) Infection Control and Immunization Practices.

Address

- Address vaccine hesitancy and strategies to overcome it.

Engage

- Engage healthcare providers in promoting vaccine confidence.

Foster

- Foster collaboration and action for infection control and immunization programs.

Importance of Infection Control & Immunization Practices in Nursing Homes



Preventing

Preventing the spread of infections

Protecting

Protecting vulnerable residents

Enhancing

Enhancing overall resident well-being

Key Infection Control Measures



Hand
hygiene

Proper
handwashing
techniques

Use of hand
sanitizers

Hand Hygiene Promotion



Proper hand hygiene is one of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of infections.

Infection control promotes and reinforces the importance of hand hygiene among healthcare staff, patients, and visitors.

This includes regular handwashing with soap and water or using alcohol-based hand sanitizers, especially before and after patient contact or performing invasive procedures.

Key Infection Control Measures



Personal
protective
equipment
(PPE)

Gloves, masks,
gowns, and
eye protection

Isolation Precautions:



Infection control establishes and enforces appropriate isolation precautions to prevent the spread of highly contagious infections.



This includes implementing contact, droplet, or airborne precautions based on the mode of transmission of specific pathogens.



Isolation precautions involve using PPE, maintaining proper ventilation, and ensuring proper patient placement to limit the transmission of infections.

Key Infection Control Measures



ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANING
AND DISINFECTION



REGULAR CLEANING OF
SURFACES AND OBJECTS



USE OF APPROPRIATE
DISINFECTANTS

Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection:



Infection control oversees the implementation of effective cleaning and disinfection practices in healthcare facilities.



This includes routine cleaning of patient rooms, equipment, and high-touch surfaces, using appropriate disinfectants.



Proper cleaning and disinfection help eliminate or reduce infectious agents present in the environment, decreasing the risk of HAIs.

Key Infection Control Measures



Respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette

Covering mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing

Proper disposal of tissues

Implementation of Standard Precautions



Standard Precautions are a set of infection control practices designed to prevent the transmission of infectious agents.



They include hand hygiene, use of personal protective equipment (PPE), safe injection practices, and respiratory hygiene/cough etiquette.



Infection control ensures that these precautions are consistently implemented by healthcare staff, reducing the risk of transmission of infections between patients and healthcare workers.

Surveillance and Monitoring:



Infection control collects and analyzes data on HAIs within the healthcare facility.

This includes tracking infection rates, identifying trends, and monitoring the effectiveness of infection control practices.

Surveillance helps in early detection of outbreaks or clusters of infections, allowing prompt intervention and prevention of further spread.

Education and Training:



Infection control provides ongoing education and training to healthcare staff on infection prevention and control practices.

1

This includes training on proper hand hygiene, PPE use, safe injection practices, proper cleaning and disinfection techniques, and adherence to isolation precautions.

2

Education also extends to patients and their families, empowering them to actively participate in infection prevention measures.

Collaboration and Communication:



Infection control collaborates with different departments and healthcare teams to ensure a multidisciplinary approach to infection prevention.

Effective communication and collaboration among healthcare workers, including nurses, doctors, and support staff, are essential in implementing and sustaining infection control measures.

Immunization Importance



Vaccination as a key preventive measure



Protecting residents from vaccine-preventable diseases



Reducing disease transmission within nursing homes



Enhancing herd immunity

Recommended Vaccines for Nursing Home Residents:



Influenza (flu)

Pneumococcal

**COVID 19
Vaccine(s)**

**Herpes Zoster
(shingles)**

Tdap

HEP B

****NEW RSV****

Immunizations: Age 50-64



Most commonly Administered Vaccinations in Nursing homes according to the CDC for people ages 50-64:

- **COVID-19 vaccine**
- **Flu vaccine (influenza)**
- **Shingles vaccine (zoster)**
- **Tdap** (tetanus, diphtheria, and whooping cough) or **Id** (tetanus and diphtheria)

But may also need

- **Hepatitis B vaccine** – recommended for all adults up through 59 years of age
- **MMR vaccine** (measles, mumps, and rubella)—if born 1957 or later
- **RSV (respiratory syncytial virus)** – adults aged 60 years or older should talk to their healthcare provider about getting a single dose of RSV vaccine

Immunizations: Age 65 +



Most commonly Administered Vaccinations in Nursing homes according to the CDC for people ages 65+:

- **COVID-19 vaccine**
- **Flu vaccine (influenza)**
- **Shingles vaccine (zoster)**
- **Tdap** (tetanus, diphtheria, and whooping cough) or **Td** (tetanus and diphtheria)

But may also need

- **RSV (respiratory syncytial virus)** – adults aged 60 years or older should talk to their healthcare provider about getting a single dose of RSV vaccine

CONSENT:



If your loved one is not able to ask questions or otherwise communicate with the LTC staff, here's what to know about consent for getting a COVID-19 vaccine:

- Consent or assent for a COVID-19 vaccine is given by LTC residents (or people appointed to make medical decisions on their behalf called a medical proxy) and documented in their charts per the provider's standard practice.
- Residents who receive a COVID-19 vaccine (or their medical proxy) also receive a fact sheet before vaccination. The fact sheet explains the risks and benefits of COVID-19 vaccination.
- Some COVID-19 vaccination providers may require written, email, or verbal consent from recipients before getting vaccinated. This is at the provider's discretion; written consent is not required by federal law for COVID-19 vaccination in the United States (U.S.).
- Residents (or their medical proxies) get a vaccination card or printout that tells them which COVID-19 vaccine they received and the date they received it. If their vaccine card is full, the vaccine provider can give them another card. This should also be recorded in their medical chart.

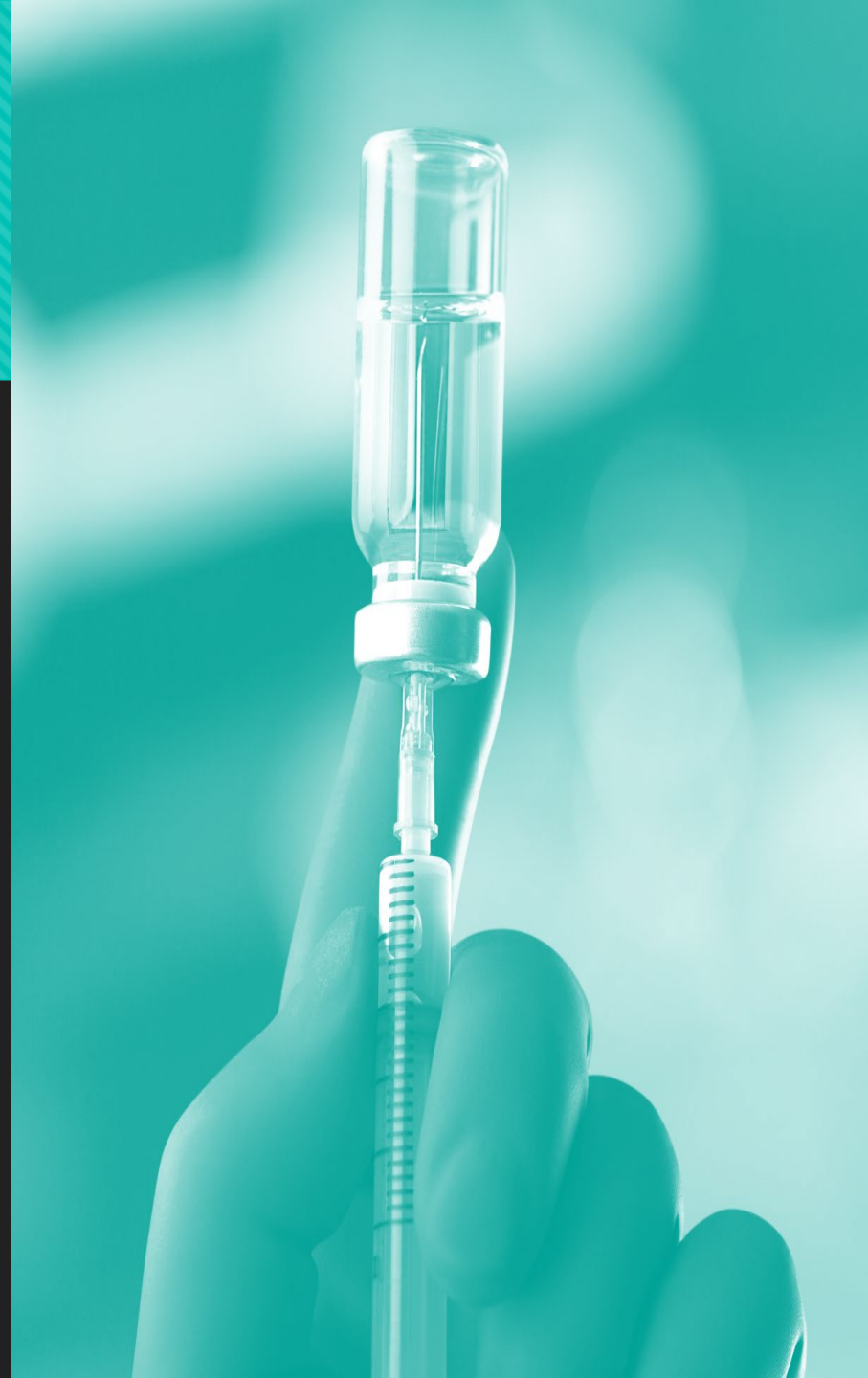
Immunizations: Healthcare Workers

○ Vaccines you need

If you work directly with patients or handle material that could spread infection, you should get appropriate vaccines to reduce the chance that you will get or spread vaccine-preventable diseases. All healthcare workers should make sure they're up to date on these vaccines:

- COVID-19 vaccine
- Chickenpox vaccine (varicella)
- Flu vaccine (influenza)
- Hepatitis B vaccine
- Meningococcal vaccine – especially lab workers who work with *Neisseria Meningitidis*
- MMR vaccine (measles, mumps, and rubella)
- Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, and whooping cough) or Td (tetanus and diphtheria)

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/adults/rec-vac/index.html>



Immunizations: Healthcare Workers

You may need other vaccines, too

Healthcare workers should make sure they're up to date on any other vaccines routinely recommended for them based on age or other factors. Talk with your doctor to learn which vaccines are recommended for you. These may include:

- **HPV vaccine (human papillomavirus)** – recommended for adults ages 18 through 26 years and adults ages 27 through 45 years based on shared clinical decision-making
- **Shingles vaccine (zoster)** – recommended for all adults 50 years of age and older



What YOU NEED TO KNOW: HCW's

CDC recommends everyone, including people who live and work in Long-term Care (LTC) settings, stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines for their age group:

- Everyone 6 years and older
- Children aged 6 months – 5 years
- People more likely to get very sick from COVID-19 can get **additional** updated COVID-19 vaccines. Learn more about additional doses.
- People who live in LTC settings must give consent, or agree to getting a COVID-19 vaccine.
- COVID-19 vaccines are free.



What HCW's NEED to Know:



- If you live or work in a Long-term Care (LTC) setting, you can help protect yourself and the people around you by staying up to date with your COVID-19 vaccines.
- COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective—especially against becoming seriously ill, being hospitalized and dying—and very important for older adults.
- Older adults and people with certain health conditions are more likely to get very sick from COVID-19.
- COVID-19 vaccines can help keep you from getting seriously ill if you do get COVID-19.

Vaccination Strategies



Collaborating with healthcare providers and pharmacies



Ensuring accessibility and availability of vaccines



Educating residents, families, and staff about the importance of immunization



Implementing vaccination campaigns and clinics

Challenges in Infection Control and Immunization



**Staff education
and compliance**

**Vaccine
hesitancy
among residents
and families**

**Maintaining
accurate
vaccination
records**

**Adapting to
emerging
infectious
diseases**



Strategies to Overcome Challenges

- Ongoing staff training and education
- Effective communication with residents and families
- Utilizing electronic health records for vaccination tracking
- Staying updated with infection control guidelines and best practices

Outcomes & Benefits

- Reduced incidence of infections
- Improved resident health and quality of life
- Enhanced safety and well-being for staff
- Cost savings through decreased healthcare utilization



Conclusion



01

Infection control and immunization practices are crucial in nursing homes

02

Collaborative efforts among staff, residents, families, and healthcare providers

03

Continuous education and implementation of best practices

04

Ensuring a safe and healthy environment for all residents

Questions and Discussion



**The floor is for all
of your questions,
concerns and
discussion.**

Resources:



- <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-22-07-all-attachment-ltc.pdf>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/adults/rec-vac/index.html>
- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8997018/#:~:text=Strong%20community%20engagement%20and%20the,and%20evidence%2Dbased%20interpersonal%20communication.>
- <https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/-/media/Project/Websites/coronavirus/Vaccine-Page/Vaccine-Hesitancy-Toolkit.pdf?rev=d1c9bdb3f5fa47068a604a973afbdf7>
- <https://www.ama-assn.org>
- <https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/health/conditions-and-diseases/coronavirus/covid19-vaccine-hesitancy-12-things-you-need-to-know>

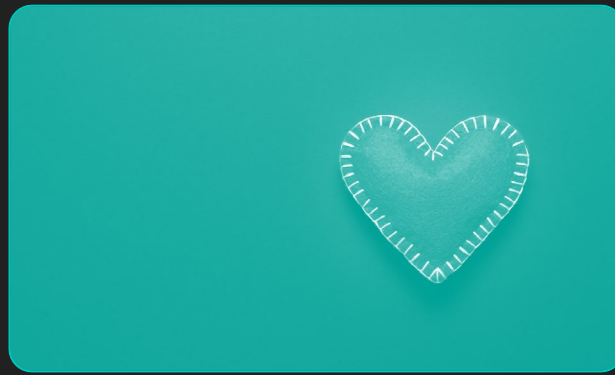
Resources:



- <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/vis-statements/rsv.pdf>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/pdfs/hps/covidvax/UpToDateGuidance-508.pdf>
 - This link gives the most appropriate crosswalk for if an HCW is up to date when reporting to NHSN on infections and Vaccine status weekly. It's 25 pages long so I didn't add to slides but please keep as the resource.
- <https://acl.gov/covid19/covid-19-vaccine-access-long-term-care-settings>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/long-term-care/pharmacy-partnerships/administrators-managers.html>
- [#GetVaccinated \(ahcancal.org\)](https://www.ahcancal.org/#GetVaccinated)



Thank You & Contact Information:



Constance Tetrev, RN, RN-NT, IPC

Innovative Insights Consulting, LLC

Email: Constance@ii.consulting

Website: <https://ii.consulting>

Phone: 608.746.3571

Continue the Conversation in

Superior Health Connect



Connect is a shared learning environment for Superior Health participants to come together to foster and promote an all-teach-all-learn climate that provides the framework to improve and sustain mutual health care quality improvement initiatives locally, regionally, and nationally.

<https://bit.ly/3BhfHc1>



Scan to join Connect.



Quality Improvement Organizations

Sharing Knowledge. Improving Health Care.

CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES

SUPERIOR HEALTH

Quality Alliance

This material was prepared by the Superior Health Quality Alliance, a Quality Innovation Network-Quality Improvement Organization under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Views expressed in this material do not necessarily reflect the official views or policy of CMS or HHS, and any reference to a specific product or entity herein does not constitute endorsement of that product or entity by CMS or HHS.

12SOW-MI/MN/WI-NH-23-115 092223