

# COVID-19 Q&A Hour for Long Term Care



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAI) Program

Shoreline, WA

# Housekeeping



Attendees will be in listen only mode



Self-mute your lines when not speaking



Type questions into the question window. Please include the type of facility you are from in your question (e.g., NH).



Nursing Home

Participants from long-term care, regulatory, public health



No confidential information presented or discussed. This is an educational webinar and does not constitute legal advice.



Local guidance may differ, please consult with your Local Health Jurisdiction (LHJ):

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/AboutUs/PublicHealthSystem/LocalHealthJurisdictions>

# This is the LTC COVID-19 Q&A Hour!

A chance to connect, ask questions, and learn about the COVID-19 response and infection prevention guidance



# Where Can I Find the Q & A Document?

Posted every Wednesday

- Washington Health Care Association:

<https://www.whca.org/washington-department-of-health-covid-19-qa-session/>

- Washington LeadingAge:

[https://www.leadingagewa.org/ill\\_pubs\\_articles/copy-resources-preparing-your-community-staff-residents-and-families-for-the-coronavirus/](https://www.leadingagewa.org/ill_pubs_articles/copy-resources-preparing-your-community-staff-residents-and-families-for-the-coronavirus/)

- Adult Family Home Council:

<https://adultfamilyhomecouncil.org/department-of-health-qa-webinars/>

# Panelists

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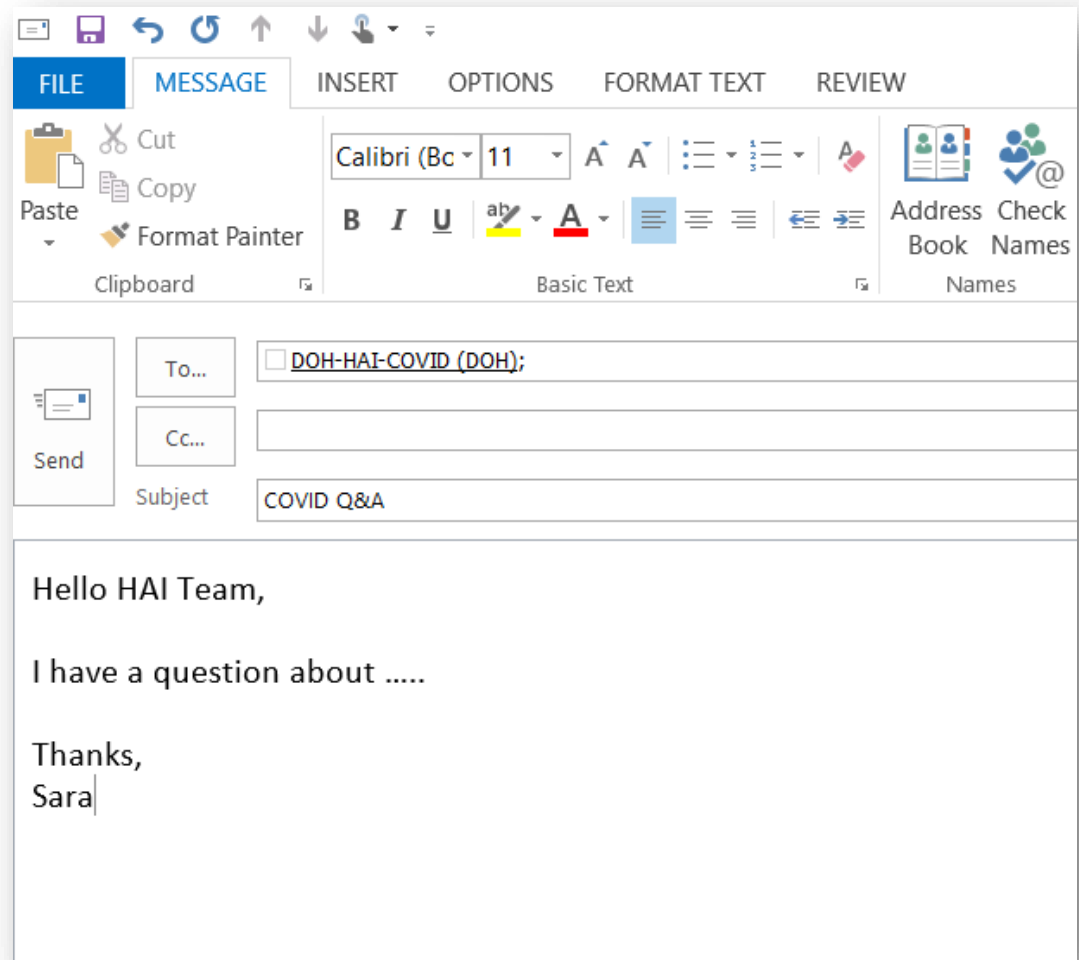


# Send Us Your Questions Ahead of Time

**Subject Line:**  
COVID Q&A

**Email:**  
[HAI-COVID@doh.wa.gov](mailto:HAI-COVID@doh.wa.gov)

**Due by:** COB Tuesday



# Infection Control Assessment & Response (ICAR) Program

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**Free, non-regulatory ICARs are a great opportunity for skilled nursing facilities, adult family homes, and assisted living facilities to:**

- Ask a Department of Health infection prevention expert questions.
- Get help finding gaps in your infection control protocols.
- Receive personalized advice and recommendations for your facility.

**There are multiple ways to schedule an ICAR:**

- Visit <https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/opinio/s?s=ICARconsultation>
- Email Maria Capella-Morales [maria.capella-morales@doh.wa.gov](mailto:maria.capella-morales@doh.wa.gov)
- Email Melissa Feskin [Melissa.Feskin@doh.wa.gov](mailto:Melissa.Feskin@doh.wa.gov)

**In partnership with:**

- Local Health Jurisdictions
- LeadingAge Washington
- Washington Health Care Association
- Adult Family Home Council of WA State
- Washington State Hospital Association



**LONG-TERM CARE FACILITY STAFF:**

**Reasons to Get Vaccinated Against COVID-19 Today**

- 1** You are on the front lines and risk being exposed to people with COVID-19 each day on the job.
- 2** Protecting you also helps protect your residents and your family, especially those who may be at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19.
- 3** You matter to us and play an essential role in keeping your community healthy.



*Lead the way!*

**Encourage your coworkers, residents, family, and friends to get vaccinated.**



11/20/20

[www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/vaccines](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/vaccines)

*Videos:*

Long-Term Care Community

Champions: Voices From the Front Line

**Nursing home staff  
are on the **FRONT LINES**  
with their residents every day**

**Protected staff means  
**PROTECTED RESIDENTS**  
and a protected community**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k0WbAhveyDY>

Vaccine Resources in multiple languages:

Resources and Recommendations ::

Washington State Department of Health

**1-833-VAX-HELP for  
vaccine information**

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/downloads/COVID-19-LTCF-staff-poster-reasons-to-vaccinate-today.pdf>



# Long-Term Care COVID-19 Immunization Champion Award Summer 2021

**Congratulations to the first group of LTC facilities receiving awards!**



Summer 2021 Recognition Program	Facilities Awarded
Gold Level – 90%+ Staff Vaccinated	26
Silver Level – 80-89%	18
Bronze Level – 70-79%	12

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/ForPublicHealthandHealthcareProviders/PublicHealthSystemResourcesandServices/Immunization/LongTermCareFacilities/LongTermCareCOVID19ImmunizationChampionAward>

# Long-Term Care COVID-19 Immunization Champion Award

**Continue to increase your LTCF staff vaccinations to qualify for next quarterly award and be recognized for your work and accomplishments to protect against COVID-19 in your facility!**

**It's simple to apply by responding to a 5-question survey!**

**Next deadline: December 1**

- Any Long-Term Care facilities can participate <https://redcap.doh.wa.gov/surveys/?s=KFRMW8JN4P>
  - Skilled Nursing Facilities use NHSN to report staff rates
- For questions about the awards, contact [covid.vaccine@doh.wa.gov](mailto:covid.vaccine@doh.wa.gov)
- For questions about the survey, contact [LTC-COVID-Vaccination-Survey@doh.wa.gov](mailto:LTC-COVID-Vaccination-Survey@doh.wa.gov) using subject line: LTC COVID-19 Vaccination Survey.

# NHSN Updates for SNF

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- **NHSN release on Sept. 18, impacting:**
  - **Resident Impact and Facility Capacity Pathway**
  - **Weekly Vaccination for Residents and Staff**
  - **POC Test Reporting Tool**
  - **Get your Level 3 access now (SAMS grid card) – will be required week ending October 3 – at least 2 users in facility should be signed up with grid card**
- Weekly vaccination slideset, updated instructions & forms are at: <https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/ltc/weekly-covid-vac/index.html>
- Resident Impact Pathway slideset, instructions and forms will be at: <https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/ltc/covid19/index.html>

# Safe Start Guidance Updates

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In preparation for the release of the updates, DSHS and DOH will be offering **two presentations** to give providers the opportunity to learn more about the updates and to ask questions. Please join us in one of the sessions below.

## Monday

You are invited to a Zoom webinar.

When: **Oct 4, 2021** 01:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Topic: Safe Start Guidance Update

Register in advance for this webinar:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_TOr3hwrmQFqmcU10BrUkwQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_TOr3hwrmQFqmcU10BrUkwQ)

# Safe Start, cont

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## **Thursday**

You are invited to a Zoom webinar.

When: **Oct 7, 2021** 11:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Topic: LTC Q&A Call

Register in advance for this webinar:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_KuH3BbrXTFS\\_h8tjqOjp31A](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_KuH3BbrXTFS_h8tjqOjp31A)

**\*Please note\*** The Oct 7 Thursday presentation is the weekly Q&A session already provided by DSHS and DOH with the time extended to allow for a longer Q&A period. If you already participate in those weekly calls, you do NOT need to sign up again. Just join the call using the same link you regularly use.

# CLIA Waiver Reminder

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Planning on testing and laboratory licensing 10/14

When applying for CLIA Waiver use Washington State Form:

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/LicensesPermitsandCertificates/FacilitiesNewReneworUpdate/LaboratoryQualityAssurance/Licensing/Applications>

# Success Stories

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## Best Practices from the community

- Life Care Center of Puyallup
  - Sonia Mercado and Andrea Stratford
- Woodland Care Center
  - Stephanie Smith

*Thank you for sharing!*



# Situation: How to prevent and slow the spread of COVID-19

2020-21 PLANS FROM LIFE CARE CENTER OF PUYALLUP



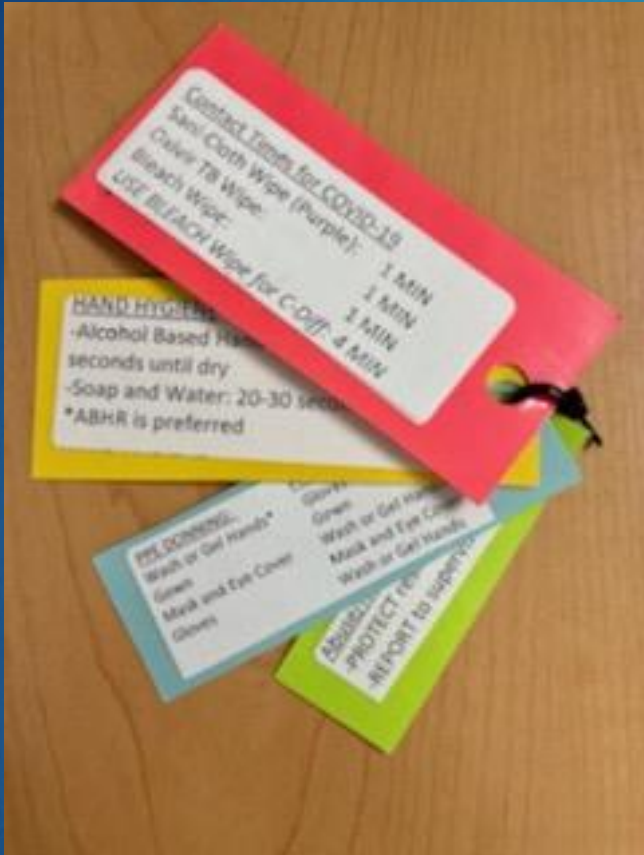
# Challenges and Barriers

- ▶ Non-compliance with PPE
  - ▶ Eye wear
  - ▶ Face Shields
  - ▶ Isolation Procedures
- ▶ Non-compliance with screening
  - ▶ Truth in reporting
  - ▶ Consistency

# Implementation

- ▶ Pocket reminders
- ▶ Sanitation and PPE Supply Stations
- ▶ Compliance Rounds
- ▶ Signage
- ▶ Inservicing
- ▶ COVR Messages and use of PCC Dashboard
- ▶ Installation of UVC pinpoint ionization system in existing HVAC
- ▶ Positive, Vocal, and Insistent Campaign to increase vaccination rates for staff and residents

# Pocket reminders



# Sanitation Stations



# Supply Stations



# Outcomes

- ▶ Assist with Covid-19 Prevention.
- ▶ Increased Staff Knowledge of Infection Prevention
- ▶ Increased Staff compliance with mitigation and prevention
  - ▶ Increased ease of use increases compliance



# Vaccination Keys to Success



# Initial Barriers to Vaccination for Sars-CoV2

*New virus - New vaccine – Fear of the unknown*

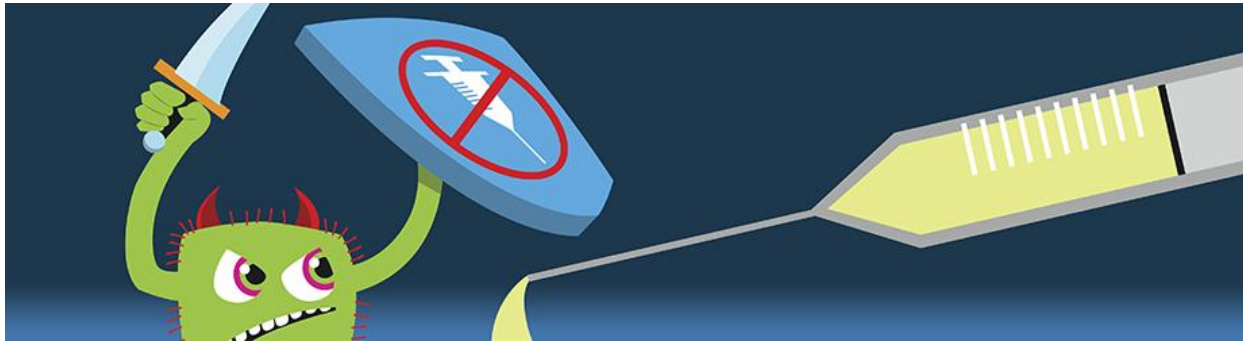


- Will the vaccine work?
- Will there be side effects? (Short-term/long-term)
- Who do you trust?



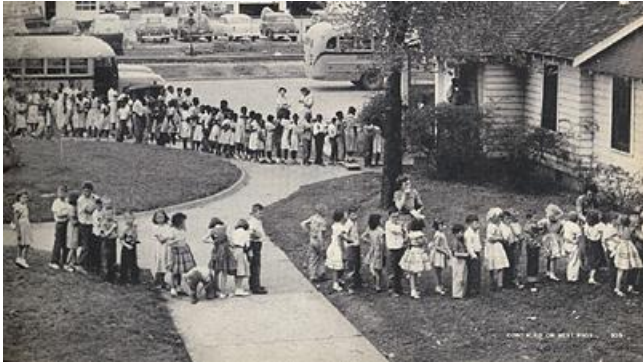
# Back to Basics

Make no assumptions and start at the beginning.



- How does your immune system work?
- What are vaccines and how do they work?
  - Vector vs mRNA
  - Disease vs illness prevention
- Why are they so important?
  - Benefits to the community as a whole
  - Longevity and future generations
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# History from the Residents' point of view



Encourage staff to talk to the residents about the importance of vaccines.

Ask the residents about:

- Diseases that have come and gone.
- First -hand experiences of the benefits of vaccines.
- Whether they have been affected by a disease for which we now have a vaccine.
- Family and friends who have suffered from such diseases.
- What vaccine they have had during their lifetime that they remember people being excited about.

# It Takes the Whole Community

Remind staff that vaccines are important for everyone, not just themselves

- **Vaccines will benefit everyone; family, friends, and residents.**
- **Being young and healthy doesn't mean you can't share germs.**
- **COVID infects every age and can be unpredictable at times. You can't say it will never happen to you.**



# The “Go-To” Person in the Facility



Every facility has someone employees tend to gravitate towards. Use this person to your benefit.

- Listen and support, don't get defensive or argumentative.
- You can't always fix fears, but you can always offer support.
- Actively listen and don't rush. It doesn't get resolved in one day.

# Remember the Simple fixes

**Sometimes it is only a small thing that is preventing them from getting vaccinated. The simplest thing could be what is standing in their way.**



- No Cost to the employee
- Time off if after vaccine to recover.
- Partner up, go with a buddy for support.
- Offer guidance on finding appropriate sources for information



## Recourses

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/keythingstoknow.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/conversations/understanding-vacc-work.html>

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/COVID19/VaccineInformation/SafetyandEffectiveness>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/vaccine-benefits.html>