

COVID-19 Q&A Hour for Long Term Care: Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities



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/

- Adult Family Home Council:

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

Panelists

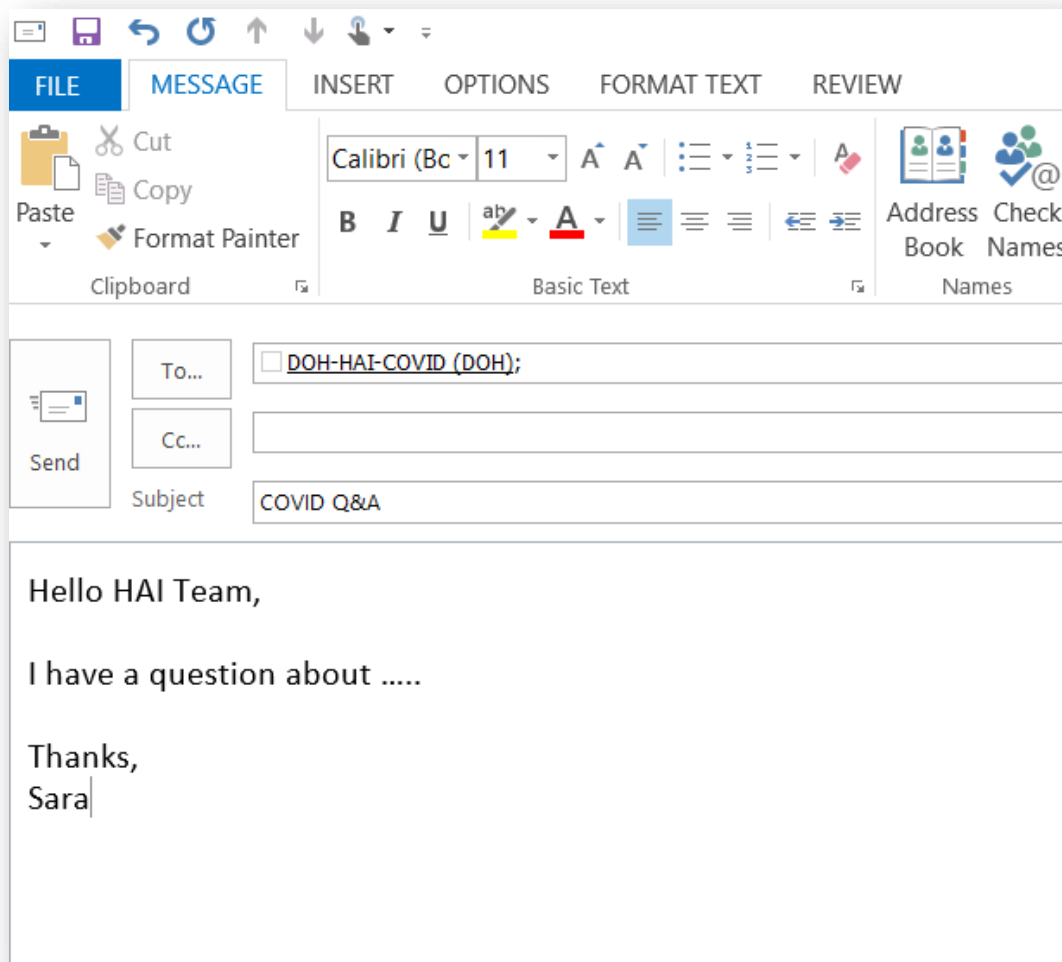


Send Us Your Questions Ahead of Time

Subject Line:
COVID Q&A

Email:
HAI-COVID@doh.wa.gov

Due by: COB Tuesday



Infection Control Assessment & Response (ICAR) Program

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
- Email Melissa Feskin 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

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

Continue to increase your LTCF staff vaccinations to qualify for next quarterly award!



Vaccine Type	1 st dose received by:	2 nd dose received by:
Pfizer	September 13, 2021	October 4, 2021
Moderna	September 6, 2021	October 4, 2021
J&J	October 4, 2021	One and Done

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

Long-Term Care COVID-19 Immunization Champion Award

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 to be announced later.

- 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 flufighter@doh.wa.gov
- For questions about the survey, contact LTC-COVID-Vaccination-Survey@doh.wa.gov using subject line: LTC COVID-19 Vaccination Survey.

NHSN Updates for SNF

- **Next NHSN release scheduled for 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**

- Trainings scheduled:

Topic: LTCF COVID-19 Module: Resident Impact and Facility Capacity Pathway Updates

Date: Monday, Sep 20, 2021

Time: 10:00 – 11:00am PT

Registration:

https://cdc.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_LVIK4Kt-Q5O-T2v2J6QydQ

NHSN Vaccination Updates for SNF

- Topic: **2021 Changes to the Weekly NHSN COVID-19 Vaccination Data Collection Forms for LTCF**

Date: Thursday, September 23, 2021

Time: 11 am– 12pm PT

Registration:

https://cdc.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_wQWphrcdRvCy4ATVbJ6BpQ

- Replay: **2021 Changes to the Weekly NHSN COVID-19 Vaccination Data Collection Forms for LTCF**

Date: Wednesday, September 29, 2021

Time: 10:00 – 11:00am PT

Registration:

[https://cdc.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_s8S25ZwPTReJGMn9MqSshQexternal icon](https://cdc.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_s8S25ZwPTReJGMn9MqSshQexternal%20icon)

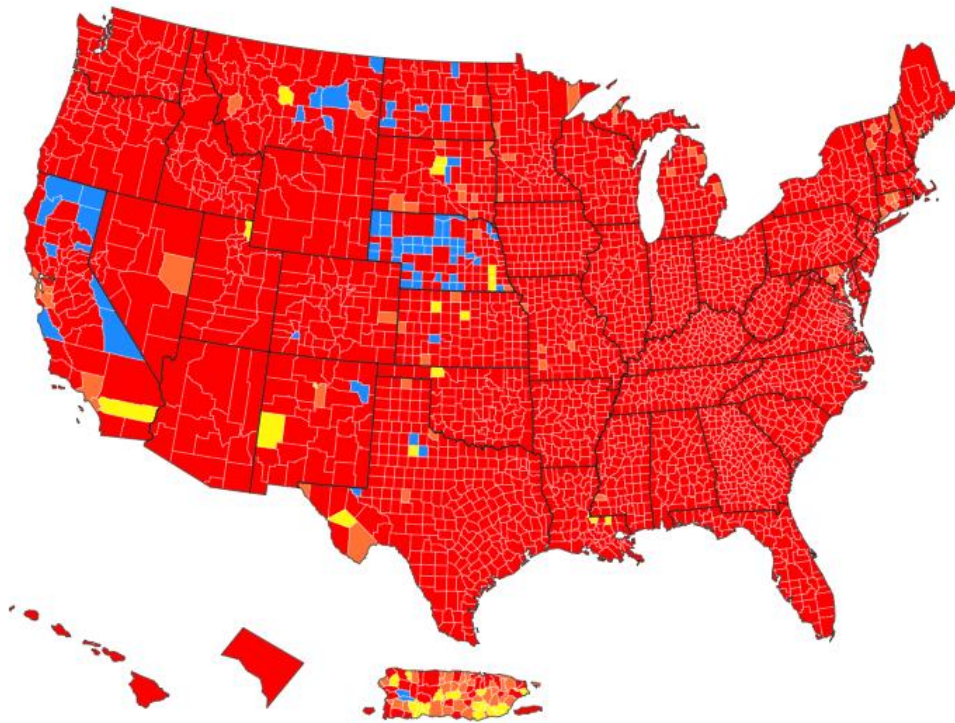
Guidance Updates

DOH and DSHS are working on updating guidance and the Safe Start Plan

Some guidance can be implemented immediately:

- CDC Community Levels of Transmission
- Masking guidance
- Eye protection
- Testing Guidance
- AGP Guidance

CDC's Community Levels of Transmission



Community Transmission in US by County

	Total	Percent	% Change
High	3026	93.98%	-1.4%
Substantial	92	2.86%	0.81%
Moderate	31	0.96%	0.4%
Low	70	2.17%	0.19%

[How is community transmission calculated?](#)

Universal Use of Source Control (masks)

Secretary of Health Order 20-03.5

General Face Covering Requirement

Every person in Washington State must wear a face covering that covers their nose and mouth when they are in a place where any person from outside their household is present or in a place that is generally accessible to any person from outside their household, subject to the exceptions and exemptions below.

https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/Secretary_of_Health_Order_20-03_Statewide_Face_Coverings.pdf

Updated CDC guidance:

“Source control and physical distancing (when physical distancing is feasible and will not interfere with provision of care) are recommended for everyone in a healthcare setting. This is particularly important for individuals, regardless of their vaccination status, who live or work in counties with substantial to high community transmission...”

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html>

Eye Protection

CDC Update:

Healthcare workers in facilities located in counties with substantial or high transmission should wear eye protection (i.e., goggles or a face shield that covers the front and sides of the face) during all patient care encounters.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html>

Testing Guidance

- CMS and CDC moved from positivity to CDC Levels of Community Transmission to determine routine frequency of testing
 - CMS has retired positivity tracking
 - All counties are 'high' = test 2x a week
 - DOH recommends continuing to test HCW, regardless of vaccination status

Other updates to testing guidance are coming soon

AGP guidance

HCP in the room **during** the AGP (regardless of COVID-19 status) and anyone entering the room following the procedure should wear:

- N95 or other respirator
- Eye protection
- Gown
- Gloves

PPE should be worn in the room max 3 hours, but can be less according to ACH, if known.

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/COVID19InfectionControlForAerosolGeneratingProcedures.pdf>

PPE use following AGP

- N95 or other respirator
- Gown
- Gloves
- Eye protection

May be exempt from respirator use **following** AGP if:

The resident is not known or suspected of having COVID-19

AND

The resident has not had a recent exposure

AND

ALL HCW in the facility are vaccinated

AND either

The resident has tested negative for COVID-19 no greater than 24 hours before the AGP

OR

The resident is fully vaccinated at time of AGP