

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>

Welcome to 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

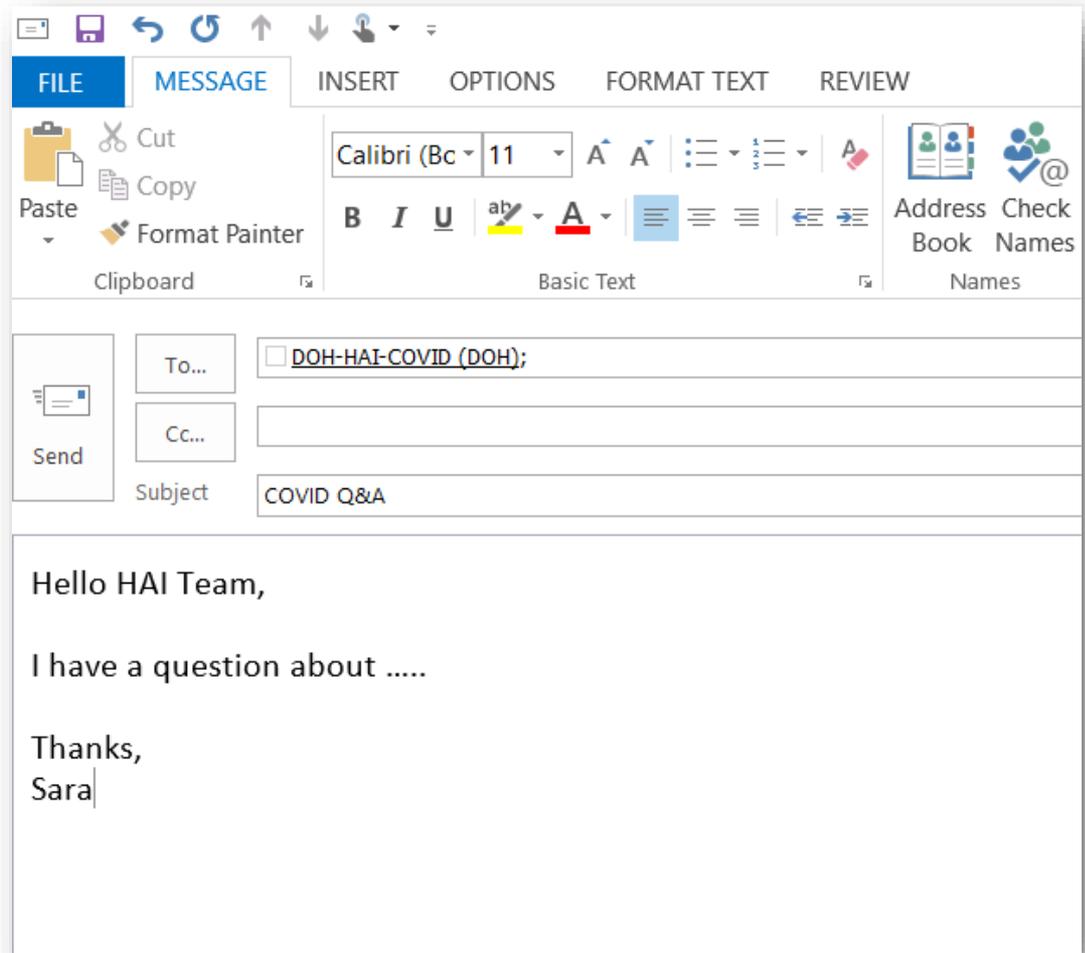


Send Us Your Questions Ahead of Time

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





TUBERCULOSIS TESTING RELATED TO COVID-19 VACCINES

Healthcare Associated Infections and Antimicrobial
Resistance Section

COVID-19 Vaccinations and Tuberculosis Testing



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Infection Prevention Consultant

Healthcare Associated Infections and
Antimicrobial Resistance Section

Tuberculosis (TB) Testing Regulations for Long Term Care Facilities

WA TB Testing Regulation	Skilled Nursing Facilities	Assisted Living Facilities	Adult Family Homes
Staff	Within 3 days of hire and yearly (WAC 388-97-1380)	Within 3 days of hire (WAC 388-78A-2480)	Within 3 days of hire (WAC 388-76-10265)
Residents	Upon admission and yearly (WAC 388-97-1380)	Any individual on respite care (WAC 388-78A-2206)	Not required (no law in place currently)
Testing Method	Skin or blood test (WAC 388-97-1400)	Skin or blood test (WAC 388-78A-2481)	Skin or blood test (WAC 388-76-10270)
Reporting	WAC 388-97-1560	WAC 388-78A-2488	WAC 388-76-10305

[References: Tuberculosis Laws & Guidelines :: Washington State Department of Health](#) – See “Laws and Regulations”

Methods of TB Testing



Screening Tests

- Tuberculin Skin Test
– Mantoux Test
- Blood Test –
Interferon Release
Assay (IGRA) AKA
Quantiferon Gold



Diagnostic Tests

- Chest X-ray
- Sputum Culture

[Reference: Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines | CDC](#)

BCG Vaccination and Positive TB Tests

How to Approach TB Screening per DOH and CDC

- For persons who are vaccinated with BCG, preference is to use the IGRA due to increased specificity
- If the person has a documented positive skin test
 1. Follow up with a chest x-ray within 7 days
 2. Perform symptom screening
 3. Follow recommendation of the person's healthcare provider

[References: Adult Tuberculosis Risk Assessment \(wa.gov\), Guidelines for Preventing the Transmission of Mycobacterium Tuberculosis in Healthcare Settings \(wa.gov\) & Washington State Tuberculosis Laws](#)

Chest X-Ray Due to Positive Test

Repeat x-rays are not needed unless:

- Symptoms or signs of TB disease develop
- They start a job at a new facility
- The person has risks for infection or new risk for progression to active TB (e.g. develops HIV, DM, immunosuppression).
 - Determined by their healthcare provider or annual individual [risk assessment](#).

Instead of participating in serial testing for TB, the person should:

- Receive a symptom screen and [risk assessment](#) for risks for infection and risks for progression to active TB.
 - Determined by their healthcare provider or annual individual [risk assessment](#).

[References: Adult Tuberculosis Risk Assessment \(wa.gov\)](#), [Guidelines for Preventing the Transmission of Mycobacterium Tuberculosis in Healthcare Settings \(wa.gov\)](#) & [Washington State Tuberculosis Laws](#)

CDC Guidance

Considerations

- TB tests do not interfere with any COVID-19 vaccinations
- All COVID-19 vaccinations may interfere with TB tests
 - False negatives cannot be excluded

Recommendation

- COVID-19 vaccinations should not be delayed for TB testing
 - Consistent with the “Dear Administrator Letter”:
<https://www.dshs.wa.gov/sites/default/files/ALISA/rcs/documents/nh/021-006.pdf>

[Reference: Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines | CDC](#)

Recommendations for Staff and Residents

- TB test should be given at the same time or before the COVID-19 vaccine

OR

- Give TB test \geq 4 weeks after fully vaccinated
 - ◆ Best Practice: Assess resident/staff using TB screening questions until the person can receive the TB test
 - ◆ [Tuberculosis Symptom Screening \(wa.gov\)](#)

[Reference: Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines | CDC](#)

Examples

- 1 New Admission**

Needs TB test but new admit (including COVID positive patients) had their 1st of 2nd vaccine dose



Assess new admit using TB screening questionnaire until ≥ 4 weeks fully vaccinated
- 2 New Staff Hire**

Needs two step TB test but new staff has their 1st vaccine dose scheduled on 4th day of hire.



Assess new staff using TB screening questionnaire until ≥ 4 weeks fully vaccinated
- 3 Yearly TB test**

Resident or staff needs a one step TB skin or blood test and has a COVID vaccine scheduled in three days



Give one step TB test or blood test plus the screening questionnaire

Assessment Consistent with TB



TB Symptomatic Persons

- Symptomatic persons or TB positive diagnostic tests should receive further medical evaluation regardless of TST or IGRA results.
- Consult with the health care provider/medical director and local public health provider for next steps (WAC 388-97-1600)



TB Follow Up

- Chest X-ray
- Sputum Culture
- Suspected or confirmed report to LHJ immediately

Key Points

1

- The COVID vaccines may interfere with TB testing but not vice versa

2

- COVID vaccines should not be delayed because of TB testing, if the person is symptomatic consult with health providers

3

- Give TB skin test or blood test ≥ 4 weeks from the 2nd dose of the COVID vaccination

Questions?



To request this document in another format, call 1-800-525-0127. Deaf or hard of hearing customers, please call 711 (Washington Relay) or email civil.rights@doh.wa.gov.

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.



12/29/20

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>

**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>

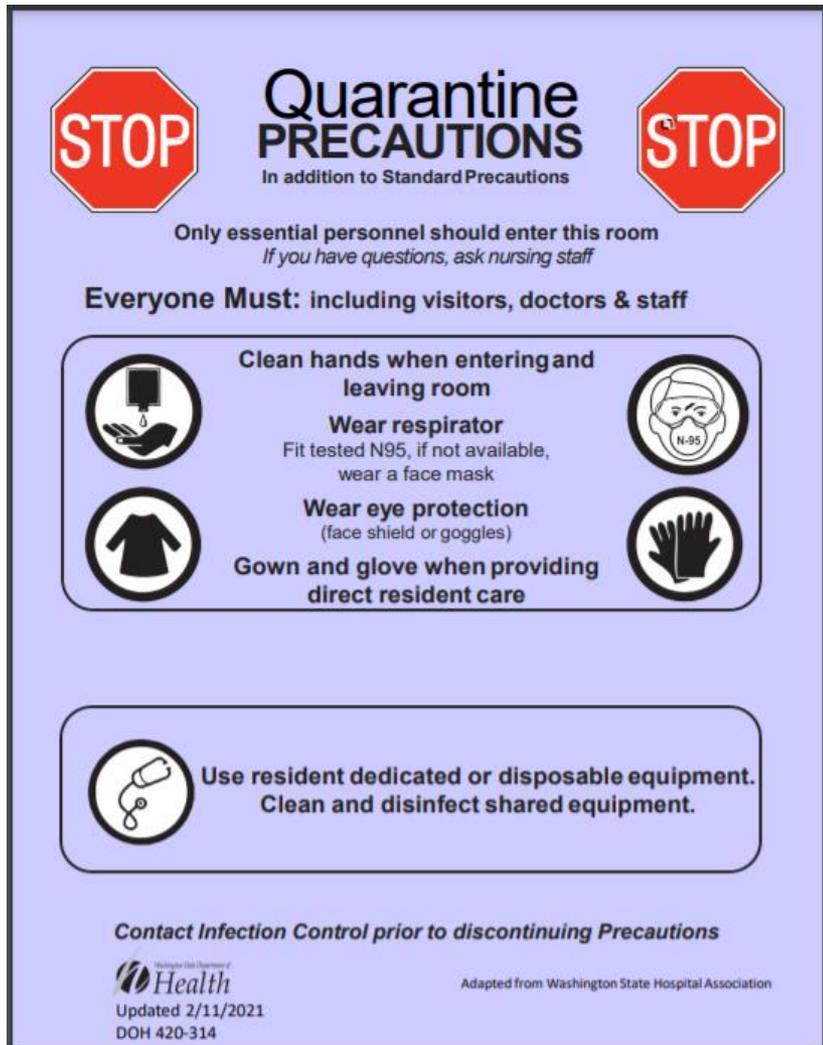
Signs

- Data Dashboard
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Healthcare Providers -
- Behavioral Health Resources
- Emergency Volunteer Health Practitioners
- First Responders
- Healthcare Facilities
- Long Term Care Facilities
- Perinatal Care Providers
- Relaxing Regulatory Requirements
- Reporting Test Results +
- Vaccine Information for Healthcare Providers +

Order by the Washington State Health Officer: [COVID-19 Screening in Certain Congregate Facilities and Agencies \(PDF\)](#), January 25, 2021

- Resources >
- LTCF Safe Start >
- Reporting >
- Testing in Nursing Homes >
- Tools ▾
 - Employee Callout Log ([PDF](#)) ([EXCEL](#))
 - [Quarantine Sign \(PDF\)](#) - recommended for exposed and newly admitted
 - [Aerosol Precautions \(PDF\)](#) - recommended for known and suspected COVID
 - [Visitor Log \(PDF\)](#)
- Transportation >
- Recommendations for Business >
- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) updates >

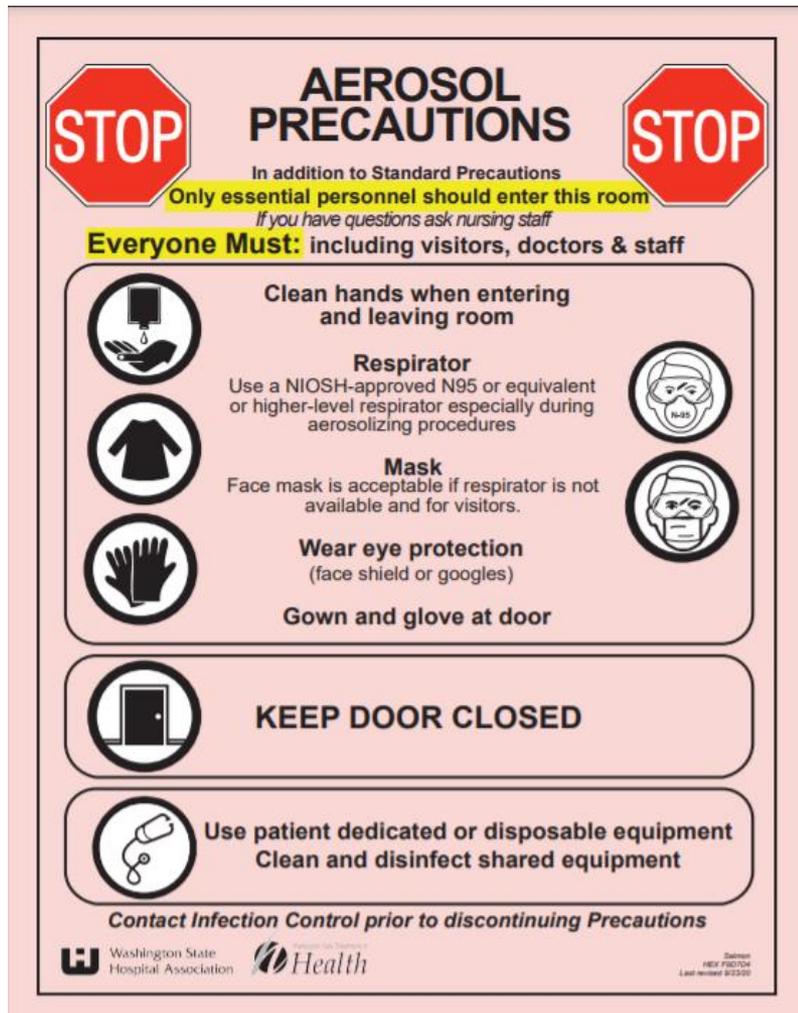
Quarantine Sign



Use for:

- Residents who are exposed, not symptomatic
- Residents who are newly admitted and not fully vaccinated
- Residents who go out into the community for high-risk activities and are not fully vaccinated

Aerosol Precaution Sign



Use for:

- Residents with known or suspected COVID-19

NHSN Announcements for Nursing Facilities

1. NHSN Weekly COVID-19 Vaccination for LTCF – updated module training for required weekly vaccination reporting.

Replay Sessions of May 11 webinar with live Q&A are scheduled at 12:30 PM-1:30 PM PT on:

- Thursday, May 20, 2021
- Tuesday, May 25, 2021
- Thursday, May 27, 2021

Register in advance for one of the webinar dates:

https://cdc.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_DQQITIUsQ7egD7ZPQlralg

NHSN Announcements for Nursing Facilities

2. Comagine Health is hosting weekly **NHSN Vaccination Open Office Hours:**

- Wed, May 26, 2021-June 2, 2021
- 10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. PT
- Access Link [HERE](#) (No Registration Required)
<https://comaginehealth.zoom.us/j/95629565648?pwd=MXVmams5NGdRMUt4K3J0aEdRKzQ3QT09>
- Contact Lisa Barton lbarton@comagine.org if you have any questions