

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

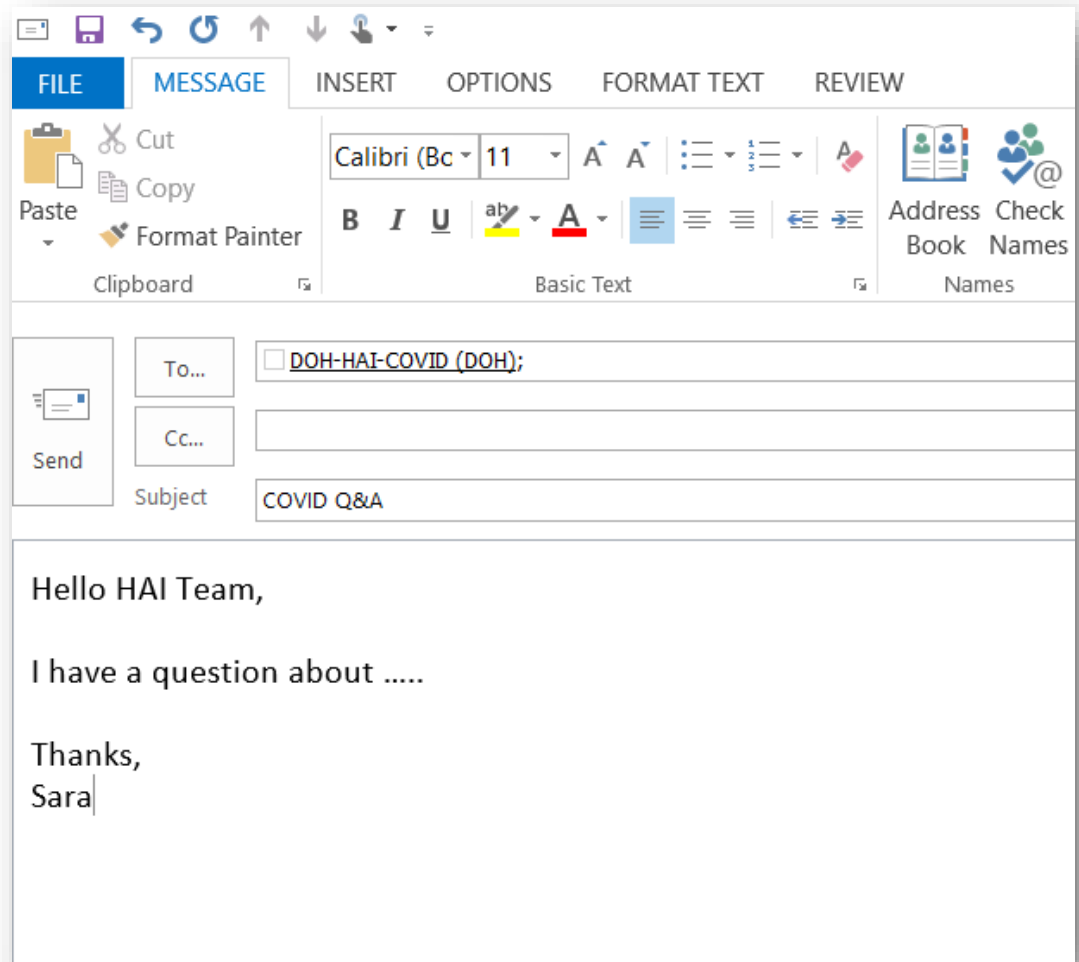


Send Us Your Questions Ahead of Time

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



Preferred PPE – Use N95 or Higher Respirator

Acceptable Alternative PPE – Use Facemask



EYE PROTECTION AND GOWNS



Healthcare-Associated Infections and Antimicrobial Resistance

Eye Protection

- Goggles or Face Shield
- Protect splash/spray from mucous membranes of the eye



When to wear eye protection

1. Standard precaution

- When you think you might encounter splash/spray of body fluids

2. Transmission based precautions

- As part of Droplet Precautions (influenza and other non-COVID respiratory viruses)
- As part of precautions for COVID isolation
- As part of precautions for COVID quarantine

3. As universal PPE when rates of COVID are >25/100,000

- For all resident encounters (regardless of COVID status)

Extended Use of Eye Protection

Wearing eye protection from one resident encounter to the next without changing or disinfecting

When to practice extended use of eye protection:

- On the COVID unit

OR

- Outside of the COVID Unit **IF** part of contingency strategy

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/eye-protection.html>

Conventional use is changing single-use, disposable eye protection or disinfecting non-disposable eye protection between each resident encounter

Gowns

- Plastic or fabric gowns, disposable and launderable
- Protect clothing from direct contact contamination

Purpose is to limit the risk of spreading germ throughout the facility via contaminated clothing.

When to wear a gown

1. Standard precautions

- When you think you might encounter something that might contaminate your clothes

2. Transmission-based precautions

- Contact Precautions
- Precautions for COVID isolation
- Precautions for COVID quarantine

3. Enhanced barrier precautions

- All high-contact care activities in a unit or wing where a resident is known to be infected or colonized with an MDRO

https://www.cdc.gov/hai/containment/PPE-Nursing-Homes.html#anchor_1561470277

Extended Use of Gowns

Wearing gown from one resident encounter to the next without changing or laundering

- Crisis strategy only

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/isolation-gowns.html>

Conventional use is removing your gown after each resident encounter and putting on a new or laundered gown for the next resident encounter

Gowns should not be worn outside of the resident care area

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

CMS Video:

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>