

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) and indicate your county.



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



COVID-19 Q&A Call Expectations

- Be present
- Assume positive intent
- Focus on solutions
- Speak and chat respectfully
- Give constructive feedback
- Express disagreements professionally and tactfully



Panelists





WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

ICAR PROGRAM DETAILS

Our free, non-regulatory ICARs provide facilities with infection prevention recommendations and resources on how to keep residents and staff safe.

What We Do

- Provide support with an infection prevention expert
- Assist with addressing gaps in your current infection control protocols for COVID-19 or other infections
- Offer up-to-date guidance and resources

Who We Serve

- Long Term Care Facilities (Assisted, Skilled, Behavioral Health, Nursing facilities, and Adult Family Homes)
- Outpatient Settings
- Acute and Critical Access Hospitals

To Learn More or Schedule an In-Person or Virtual Visit:

<http://doh.wa.gov/ICAR>

Contact Us:

HAI-FieldTeam@doh.wa.gov (General)



In Partnership With

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



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

HAI-AR SECTION EMAIL ADDRESSES

Please refer to the table below to find the email most appropriate for your needs

Email Path	Description
HAI@doh.wa.gov	General healthcare associated infection questions
HAI-Covid@doh.wa.gov	COVID19-specific healthcare associated infection questions
HAIepiOutbreakTeam@doh.wa.gov	Epidemiological outbreak assistance and healthcare associated infection questions
HAI-FieldTeam@doh.wa.gov	Schedule an ICAR for your facility
HAI-FITTesting@doh.wa.gov	Respiratory Protection related questions www.doh.wa.gov/ltrcpp

Respiratory Protection Program Support

- Available for long term care facilities:
 - 3M medical evaluation system
 - Assistance with your written program and facility training
 - Fit testing – for either outbreak or non-outbreak facilities
- Learn to conduct your own N95 fit test for your staff

Visit our website: [Fit Testing Training | Washington State Department of Health](#) (www.doh.wa.gov/lcrpp)

Email questions to:
HAI-FitTest@doh.wa.gov



ipCHAT – Infection Prevention & Control Health Access Team

- Forum for learning from experienced infection preventionists
- Covers infection prevention and antibiotic stewardship
- Leave with new knowledge, confidence, & connections to a community of infection preventionists
- Meetings take place every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 11:00 am – 12:00 pm
- Click link to register:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/64811201201>



Antibiotic Stewardship Honor Roll for LTC

- To be listed on the honor roll, facilities must have a stewardship program aligned with CDC core elements of stewardship
 - Stewardship policy and procedure
 - Multidisciplinary stewardship committee
 - Antibiotic use protocols
 - Method for tracking and reporting data to assess antibiotic use and effectiveness of program
 - System to monitor resistance data

Is your facility eligible to be listed here?

<https://doh.wa.gov/public-health-healthcare-providers/healthcare-professions-and-facilities/healthcare-associated-infections/antibiotic-resistance/stewardship/honor-roll/long-term-care-facilities>

Project Firstline Podcast

Episodes



1. Introduction and HAIs
2. PPE
3. Hand Hygiene
4. MDROs
5. ALFs and SNFs
6. Hospital Settings
7. *Candida auris*
8. Respiratory Protection
9. Vaccine Preventable Diseases

Purpose



- Discuss and identify the importance and impact of infection prevention on our lives and the lives of our community
- [Project Firstline | Washington State Department of Health](#)



Congratulations
to all 297
Winter 2022
Awardees!



[Long-Term Care COVID-19 Immunization Champion Award | Washington State Department of Health](#)

Comagine Health Events August

- **Comagine Health Learning Collaborative: Driving Clinical Excellence**

- **August 4th: Mastery Session 1b**
 - **Objectives:**
 - Describe how to use the 15-minutes-a-day plan to explore your data
 - Verbalize two strategies that link your current use of data to promoting safe, reliable, and effective care
 - Describe how engaging staff with collecting, analyzing, or sharing data can improve joy in work and impact retention
 - Identify 1 way the COVID-19 pandemic impacted on quality improvement practices

 - First Thursday of each month through Nov. 2, 2023
 - 11 a.m. PT / noon MT (1 hour)
 - [Link to Register](#)

We want to hear from you!

- Micro learning topics – what do you want to learn more about that will help with your facility infection control practices?
- Input your ideas into Question window noting “Topics: ...”
- Or send to HAI-COVID@doh.wa.gov
- *Thank you!*

LTC Q&A Call Format Structure

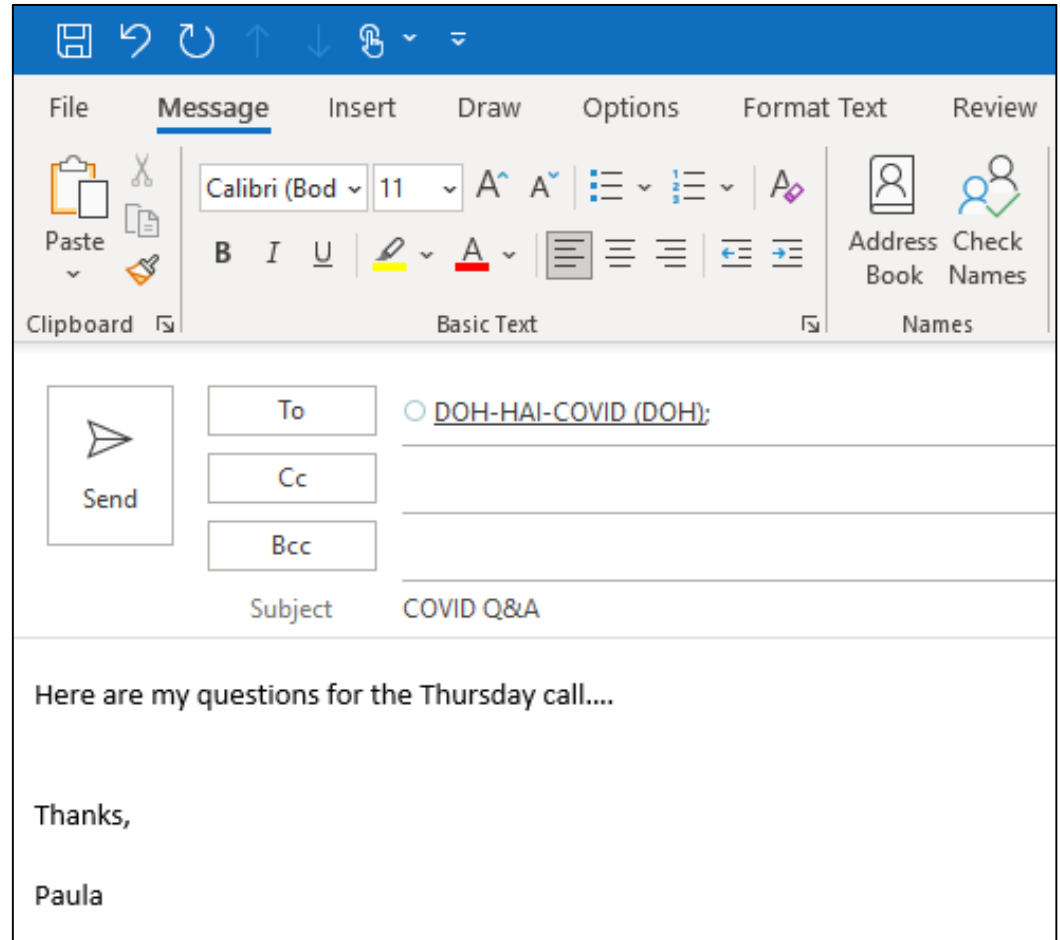
- **Submit questions by 5pm on Monday each week before the Thursday call**
- Submitted questions and answers will be presented during the call and included in slides sent out afterwards
- Follow up questions related to the slides will be addressed live
- Additional new questions will be answered live if they are common questions
- Otherwise other questions will be consolidated by topic and roll over to the following week's slides to provide in depth feedback & relevant resource links, along with any new mailbox questions
- Complex questions specific to your facility are best sent to HAI-COVID@doh.wa.gov to be answered individually

How to Submit Your Questions

Subject Line:
COVID Q&A Call

Email:
HAI-COVID@doh.wa.gov

Due by: COB Monday



Upcoming LTC Q&A Micro Learning Presentations

Upcoming presentation schedule:

Today: Hands on Fit Test Training

July 28 – No Q&A call

Aug 4 – Monkeypox MPV

Aug 11 & 25 – No Q&A call

Sept 22 – Staff on hand to answer Medical Test Site Waiver questions – request for questions soon

TBD September:

Success Stories from LTC



HANDS-ON FIT TEST TRAINING

Occupational Health – HAI/AR

Becoming a Fit Tester

PREPARING FOR THE HANDS-ON TRAINING

Steps for Fit Testing Training

- Step 1 – Pre-training education – Prep time may vary
 - Review materials (video, WAC, facility forms, etc.)
 - For the facility's leadership
 - For individual attendees (plan for it to take a couple of hours)
- Step 2 – Sign up and attend for a Virtual Fit Test Training Webinar

- **Step 3 – Hands-on training with our Fit Test Vendor**

Preparation – Previous Work

- Reviewed and understand:
 - Your facility's written program and N95 use training
 - The WACs relating to fit testing
 - Conduct fit testing - [WAC 296-842-15005](#)
 - Prevent sealing problems with tight-fitting respirators – [WAC 296-842-18005](#)
 - Make sure employees leave the use area before removing respirators – [WAC 296-842-18010](#)
 - Use this medical questionnaire for medical evaluations – [WAC 296-842-22005](#)
 - Follow these fit-testing procedures for tight-fitting respirators – [WAC 296-842-22010](#)
 - Follow procedures established for seal check respirators – [WAC 296-842-22020](#)
 - Watch the 3 videos on our [website](#) on fit testing

Preparation – Virtual Fit Test Training

- Attend the fit test training webinar (sign up on our website)
 - 60 minutes, live demonstration session
 - Bring your questions after reviewing the WAC, videos, and your facility written program and training
- **Webinar agenda:**
 - Review of the paperwork and equipment
 - Knowledge check
 - Observe a fit test from start to finish
 - Knowledge check
 - Review your questions
 - Overview knowledge check

After DOH Lead Virtual Training

- After the Virtual Fit Test Training with DOH
 - DOH send the participant a letter of attendance
- Connect with Columbia Safety for a Hands-on session
 - Register and take their online training (New!)
 - Schedule Hands-On Training date and time as a group
- Be prepared Hands-on session
 - Review and familiarize all material your facility is using
 - Review videos and other material and practice each other; using the "Evaluating the fit tester" checklist

Purpose of Hands-on Training

- **Goals: Able to provide valid fit test-Coaching**
 - Already have basic knowledge
 - Able demonstrate / teach-back
- Coaching and verifying your skill, not teaching basic skill

Basic knowledge & skill can review

- All material and videos
- Attend Virtual sessions and complete online training
- Review your program, forms, etc.
- Practice each other or without model

Preparation – Day of Hands-On Training

- Room
 - Large enough to hold the vendor's staff, facility staff, and workers
 - Tables and chairs (depending on the size of the group)
 - Large trash can(s)
- Supplies
 - Available N95s
 - Gloves
 - Disinfectant wipes, Hand sanitizer
- Equipment
 - Fit test kit(s)
 - Mirror(s)
- Paperwork
 - Medical evaluation letter of recommendation
 - Blank fit test records



Preparation – Scheduling staff

- Fit test takes about 30 minutes per test
- Practicing each other or conduct staff fit testing during hands-on training/coaching session

Remember

- Be sure staff getting fit tested has met the requirements outlined in your facility's written program
 - Completed medical evaluation
 - Facility N95 user training

New!

Monthly Lunch & Learn Session

Informal session on various Respiratory Protection Program (RPP) topics on the 3rd Wednesday at lunchtime, starting August 17, 2022

- **Current schedule** (Topic may change)
 - 8/17/22: What makes a good RPA (Respirator Program Administrator)?
 - 9/21/22: Tips on using the 3M system for Medical Evaluation
 - 10/19/22: Medical Evaluation: Referrals
 - 11/16/22: Respirator: Job Accommodations
 - 12/21/22: Recordkeeping
 - 1/18/23: Fit Testing Tips
- Sign-up Zoom link: [Here](#)

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.

MAILBOX QUESTION AND ANSWER

Question for 7/21/22 Q & A

QUESTION:

- The slide on page 59 which was distributed via email after Thursday 7/7/22's call had an answer about residents who are up to date and have had close contact with someone with SARS-CoV-2 infection. The answer was that they should wear source control and be tested 24 hours after the exposure and again 5-7 days later.
- In my Assisted Living, we have congregate dining for up-to-date residents. They are unable to wear source control while eating and drinking and sit at tables together. In this circumstance, can I require the exposed resident to refrain from congregate dining until the 5-day post-exposure test is negative? I am concerned about having post-exposure residents dining with non-exposed residents until their incubation period is completed.

Question for 7/21/22 Q & A

○ ANSWER:

The DOH guidelines should be followed by the facility as noted on the previous slide. Residents should be positioned at least 6 feet apart during communal dining and should wear source control to and from the dining room. Hand hygiene should be performed before and after dining. If there are issues with compliance with specific clients, please contact your LHJ for further guidance.

Question for 7/21/22 Q & A

● **QUESTION:** If employees travel out of state domestically or internationally, do they need to quarantine 3-5 days after returning? Is the quarantine days the same?

After Domestic Travel

You might have been exposed to COVID-19 during your travels.

All Travelers:

- Get [tested](#) for current infection with a [viral test](#) if your travel involved situations with greater risk of exposure such as being in crowded places while not wearing a well-fitting mask or respirator.
 - Follow [additional guidance](#) if you know you were exposed to a person with COVID-19. (see next 2 slides for details.)
- Self-monitor for [COVID-19 symptoms](#); isolate and get [tested](#) if you develop symptoms.
- Follow all [state, tribal, local, and territorial](#) recommendations or requirements after travel.
- If you recently recovered from COVID-19 in last 90 days, you do not need to get tested. If you develop symptoms, isolate and get tested.

[Domestic Travel During COVID-19 | CDC](#)

After Domestic Travel

Additional Recommendation if exposed to someone with COVID-19

If you had close contact with someone with COVID-19 **you do not need to quarantine** if:

- you are up to date with your COVID-19 vaccines or
- you had confirmed COVID-19 in the last 90 days

You should do the following:

- Wear a well-fitting facemask around others for 10 days from date of last exposure to someone with COVID-19 (the date of last close contact is considered day 0)
- Get tested at least 5 days after you last had close contact. If you test positive, isolate from others.
- If you have COVID-19 symptoms, get tested and isolate

[COVID-19 Quarantine and Isolation | CDC](#)

After Domestic Travel

Additional Recommendation if exposed to someone with COVID-19 (Cont.)

If you have close contact to someone with COVID-19 and you are **not** up to date, you should quarantine.

- Stay home and away from others for at least 5 days (day 0 through day 5) after your last contact with a person who has COVID-19. The date of your exposure is considered day 0. Wear a [well-fitting mask](#) around others.
- For 10 days after your last close contact with someone with COVID-19, watch for fever, cough, shortness of breath, or other [COVID-19 symptoms](#).
- If you develop symptoms, isolate and get tested. If positive, follow [isolation](#) recommendations.
- If you do not develop symptoms, [get tested](#) at least 5 days after your last close contact with someone with COVID-19.
 - If negative, you can leave home, but continue to wear well-fitting face mask around others for 10 days.
 - If positive, isolate for at least 5 days from the date of your positive test (if you don't have symptoms). If you develop COVID-19 symptoms, isolate for 5 days from date your symptoms began. Wear well-fitting facemask for 10 days.

[COVID-19 Quarantine and Isolation | CDC](#)

After International Travel

US Citizen, US National, US Lawful Permanent Residents, and Immigrants

- ❑ If you are not up to date with your COVID-19 vaccines:
 - Stay home and self-quarantine for a full **5 days** after travel.
 - Follow additional recommendations for ALL travelers.
- ❑ ALL Travelers (Regardless of vaccination status)
 - Get tested for current infection with a COVID-19 viral test 3-5 days after arrival.
 - Self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms; isolate and get tested if you develop symptoms.
 - If you test positive or develop COVID-19 symptoms, isolate yourself to protect others from getting infected.
- ❑ Follow all state, tribal, local, and territorial, recommendations or requirements after arrival.
- ❑ If you recovered from COVID-19 infection (documented) within the past 90 days (regardless of vaccination status), you do NOT need to get a test 3-5 days after arrival. You also do not need to self-quarantine after arrival. If you develop COVID-19 symptoms after arrival, isolate and immediately get tested. Wear a well-fitting mask around others.

Question for 7/21/22 Q & A

- **QUESTION:** The NHSN has recently updated their "UP-TO-DATE" status to consist of the primary series of COVID-19 vaccination plus two (2) boosters for those eligible aged 50 years or older? Will we now be required to quarantine new admits who are 50 years or older if they are not up-to-date with TWO booster doses?
- **ANSWER:** Yes, if the resident is not up to date with all recommended boosters, the new admit should quarantine for 10 days or 7 days with a negative test with a specimen collection date within 48 hours.

Question from 7/7/22 Q & A

○ **QUESTION:** Could you provide the document for reporting COVID-19 to public health since it is not on the reportable conditions on-line?

○ **ANSWER:** At this link, under C, you will find COVID-19 listed:

[List of Notifiable Conditions | Washington State Department of Health](#)

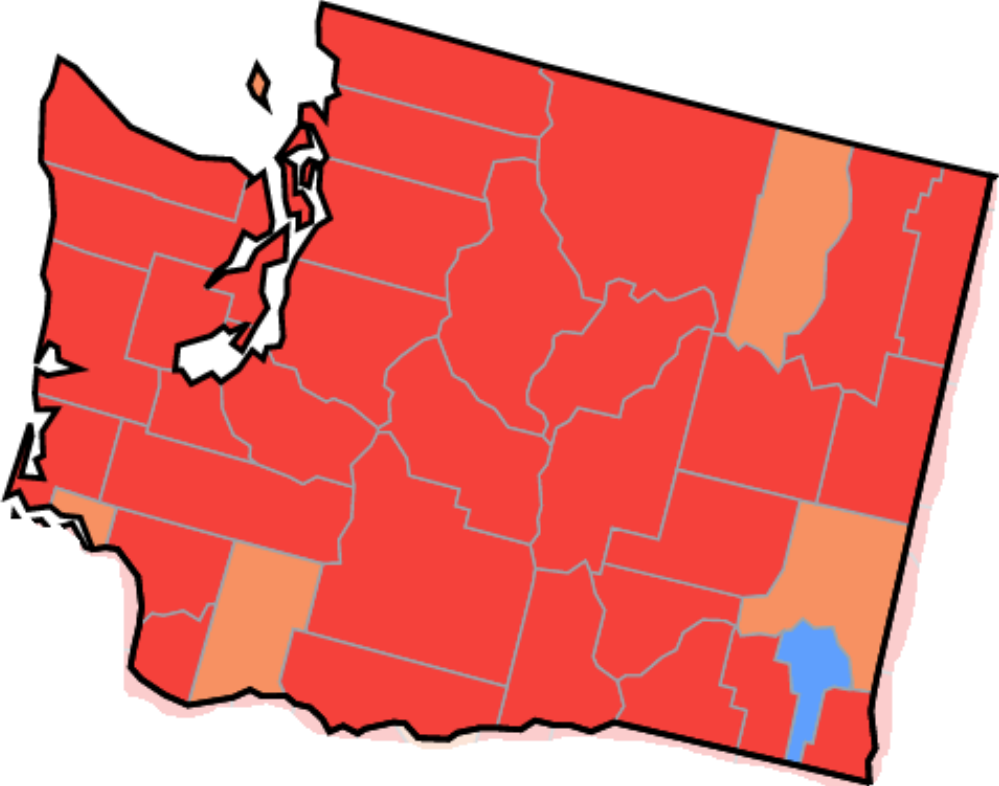
Reporting forms and guidelines are listed there.

Question from 7/7/22 Q & A

- **QUESTION:** SNF: Is there an exception to the use of masks when a patient reads lips? Where is the reference for that?
- **ANSWER:** Source control should be worn by all healthcare workers. There is no exception. They may use a face mask with a clear window at the mouth. Currently, there are two FDA-approved clear masks available for use in a healthcare setting. However, these masks are not N95-style masks and therefore are not safe enough to use with COVID-19 patients and/or when a N95 is recommended. Alternatives to N95: PAPRs or CAPRs.
[PAPR vs. CAPR Respirators - What's the Difference? \(thomasnet.com\)](#)
- Other No-Tech Methods: Provide a qualified American Sign Language (ASL) interpreter, use teach-back techniques, provide placards with written and/or pictorial procedures, use dry erase white boards, allow extra time for communication, use gestures to enhance spoken communication.
- Assistive Technology: provide video-remote interpreting, offer communication access real-time translation as an option (live captioning), use mobile iPads, or use assistive listening devices.

[Healthcare and Face Coverings 2021 - hearing impaired.pdf](#)
[How To Communicate Clearly While Wearing a Mask – Cleveland Clinic](#)

Today's COVID-19 Community Transmission rates



- Key
- High
- Substantial
- Moderate
- Low
- No Data

[CDC COVID Data Tracker: County View](#)

Q & A Section

Please type your questions into the question window and tell us what type of facility you are from (e.g., ALF, SNF, AFH) and what county you are in.