

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

- **NEWS!**

- Join our monthly Lunch and Learn on the third Wednesday, 12- 12:30pm
 - September 21st – Tips on Using the 3M System for Medical Evaluations
 - October 19th – Medical Evaluation Referrals
 - November 16th – Respirator Job Accommodations
 - December 21st – Recordkeeping



Visit our website: www.doh.wa.gov/lcrpp

Email questions to:

HAI-FitTest@doh.wa.gov

Enhanced Barrier Precautions Webinars for Nursing Facilities

Join DOH and RCS for an hour-long webinar on the recently [updated CDC recommendations for use of Enhanced Barrier Precautions \(EBP\) in nursing facilities](#). EBP is an important tool to prevent the spread of multi-drug-resistant organisms in your facility. This webinar will include an overview of EBP and resources to assist you with implementation, information from RCS, and an extended opportunity for Q&A with our panelists. Please register in advance:

Zoom Webinars are scheduled for:

- **Tuesday, Oct 11th 2-3 pm:**
 - Attendee registration link:
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_jwqIP3TDRs22eNxpIID64w
 - **Tuesday, Oct 25th 2-3 pm:**
 - Attendee registration link:
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_n5oDMo2ES5CuY7XkMi3iGA

<https://doh.wa.gov/public-health-healthcare-providers/healthcare-professions-and-facilities/healthcare-associated-infections/special-projects>

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
10. *New* Dental Settings

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](#)



Summer Awardees
Announced Soon!

Gain recognition for
staff vaccine work you
are already doing!

NEW

Semi-Annual Fall Award
Cycle begins 9/1/2022 -
2/28/23. Report by
3/3/23.



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

Beginning Fall 2022 Award Cycle

Category	Past	<u>Fall 2022</u>
Bronze	70-79%	80-89%
Silver	80-89%	90% and higher
Gold	90% or higher	90% & at least 70% up to date

ty Name

can reduce the hospitalization and deaths of residents and staff with COVID-19 vaccinations and if indicated, bringing up to date with a booster shot.

Vaccinate WA
VaccineWA.org

Call 800-525-0127
for an interpreter.

Vaccination Support

Be on the lookout for **Vaccinate WA** postcard mailed to all LTC facilities!

- COVID-19 booster dose recommendations
- How to access support for COVID-19 vaccinations
- LTC COVID-19 Immunization Champion Award
- Infection Control Assessment Response Program
- Respiratory Protection Program for LTC

Flu and COVID-19 Vaccinations

Coadministration of COVID-19 vaccines with other vaccines

COVID-19 vaccines may be administered without regard to timing of other vaccines. This includes simultaneous administration of COVID-19 vaccine and other vaccines on the same day. However, there are additional considerations if administering an orthopoxvirus vaccine (see below).

[SOURCE: Clinical Guidance for COVID-19 Vaccination | CDC](#)

Comagine Health Events for September

Vaccination Station

Please tune in to the Comagine Health **Vaccination Station** every *second Tuesday of the month* at 10 a.m. PT/11 a.m. MT. These interactive sessions are designed to address questions about barriers or issues regarding adult vaccinations and offer opportunities for problem-solving and discussion. During our meeting, we will share community risk data, updates to immunization regulations or current guidance, as well as educational resources.

Second Tuesday | 10 a.m. PT

[Register here](#)

NHSN Open Office Hours

Join Comagine Health every *fourth Wednesday of the month* at 11 a.m. PT/noon MT for **NHSN Open Office Hours**, a half-hour open conversation and technical assistance on NHSN reporting. Our subject matter expert, Lisa Barton, will provide reporting updates, answer questions and troubleshoot any reporting issues your building is experiencing.

Fourth Wednesday starting Sept. 28 | 11 a.m. PT

[Register Here](#)

Driving Clinical Excellence

How do you take limited time frame, a burnt-out workforce, ever-changing leadership and little appetite to try “one new thing” and turn it into a successful, high-functioning team? Join Comagine Health every *first Thursday of the month* at 11 a.m. PT/ noon MT for **Driving Clinical Excellence**, an interactive and collaborative learning series that combines education, small-group consultation, peer-sharing and microlearning opportunities on effective clinical and change concepts.

First Thursday through Nov. 2, 2023 | 11 a.m. PT

[Register here](#)

We want to hear from you!

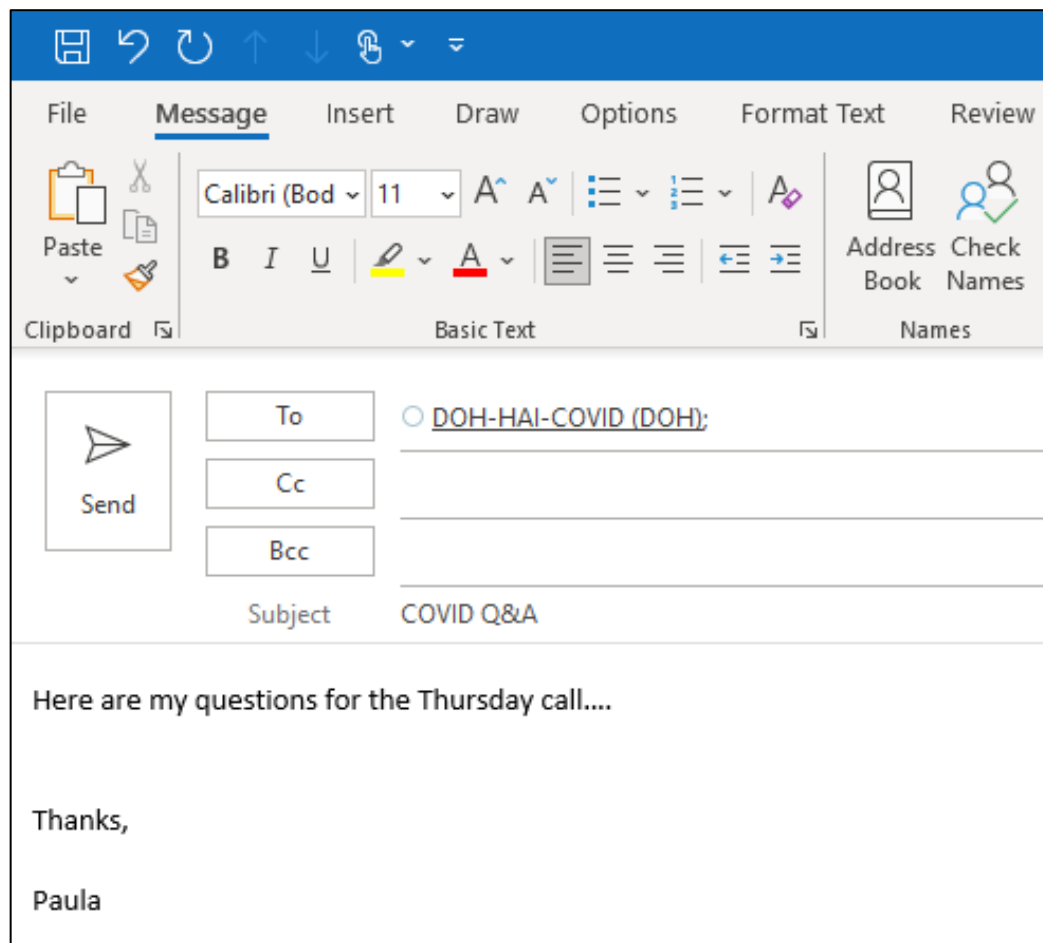
- Micro learning topics – what do you want to learn more about that will help with your facility infection control practices?
- Input your ideas into Question window noting “Topics: ...”
- Or send to HAI-COVID@doh.wa.gov
- *Thank you!*

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

Today's presentation:

- Preventing Pneumonia in Long-Term Care Facilities

Sept 22 – DOH & DSHS Staff available to answer submitted Medical Test Site Waiver questions – see next slide for how to submit

Sept 29 – Success Story: Best practices for minimizing COVID spread in Memory Care

Oct 27 - 2022-2023 Seasonal Influenza Preparation and Outbreak Response

Medical Test Site Licensing Q & A Coming

Assisted Living Facilities, Enhanced Services Facilities and Adult Family Homes that conduct medical testing (such as COVID-19 PCR testing or blood glucose testing) or act on results of medical tests done in their facilities are required to have a Washington State Medical Test Site license.

<https://doh.wa.gov/licenses-permits-and-certificates/facilities-z/laboratory-quality-assurance>

To help Assisted Living facilities and homes understand this requirement, the Department of Health Laboratory Quality Assurance will answer pre-submitted questions during the September 22 LTC call.

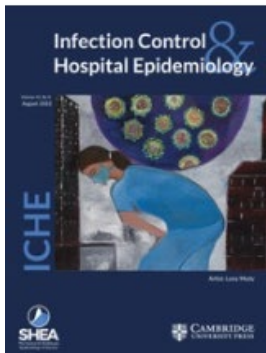
To submit a question, email HAI-COVID@doh.wa.gov and put “MTSW Q&A Call” in the subject line. Questions **submitted by September 10** will be included in the Q & A.



PREVENTING PNEUMONIA IN LONG TERM CARE FACILITIES

Background

- *Compendium of Strategies to Prevent Healthcare-Associated Infections in Acute Care Hospitals* update published May 2022
 - Evidence-based practices to prevent infections in healthcare settings
 - Updates included prevention of “hospital-acquired pneumonia”
- Principles apply in long- term care facilities (SNF, AL, MC, AFH, SL, IL, etc.)



Strategies to prevent ventilator-associated pneumonia, ventilator-associated events, and nonventilator hospital-acquired pneumonia in acute-care hospitals: 2022 Update

Part of: **ICHE Compendium 2022**

Published online by Cambridge University Press: **20 May 2022**


(Ctrl-click to read: [Compendium updates 2022](#))

Healthcare-acquired Pneumonia Prevention in LTCFs

- In addition to the regular practices that significantly lower risk
 - Diligent handwashing (gel or soap and water)-reminders
 - Symptom screening of staff and residents (staff don't work when symptomatic)
 - PPE use with residents who have symptoms of (or confirmed) respiratory infection
 - Vaccination of staff and residents (influenza, COVID-19, pneumococcal)
- Regular oral care (toothbrushing, mouth swabs)
- Elevate head of bed as appropriate for immobile residents
- Assess for and manage dysphagia*
- Encourage safe mobilization, avoid reclining for extended time

Healthcare-acquired Pneumonia Prevention in LTCFs

Special Considerations: Respiratory Care Equipment

- Respiratory Care Equipment: CPAP, BIPAP, nebulizers, ventilators*
-  **Aspiration Risk:** never put CPAP/BIPAP on residents who are nauseated or vomiting
 - No eating or drinking when wearing
- Cleaning CPAP/BIPAP equipment is essential, esp. when humidifier is used
 - Mold and other contaminants can be in hoses, masks, etc.
 - Follow med. equipment company instructions for cleaning mask, hoses, etc. (!no bleach or harsh chemicals- irritates airway)
 - Allow to dry in clean area, away from toilet if possible (don't package when wet)
 - Replace excessively soiled/worn out masks, hoses, etc. (med equipment company, ask family)

Healthcare-acquired Pneumonia Prevention in LTCFs

Special Considerations: Respiratory Care Equipment

- Check memory loss/dementia patient's equipment (coffee in humidifier, etc.)
- Store machine on clean surface off of ground, store hoses, mouth pieces, masks in clean area, preferably in clean container/baggie (change regularly)
- Check machine for mold, spills, etc. regularly (schedule)
- If using humidifier, empty water each morning and fill with new water each night
- Machine filter (most have to be disposed of/replaced, some foamy ones can be cleaned/dried)
 - Never place a wet filter into a CPAP/BIPAP machine

CPAP/BIPAP Machines and Supplies/Equipment

CPAP/BIPAP machines



CPAP/BIPAP machine filter



CPAP/BIPAP w/humidifier



CPAP/BIPAP equipment



Healthcare-acquired Pneumonia Prevention in LTCFs

Special Considerations: Respiratory Care Equipment

- Nebulizer equipment should be stored in sealed, clean container (closeable baggie, small container)
- Clean nebulizer equipment and replace according to instructions
 - Connection tubing should not be submerged into water or cleaners
- Store nebulizer equipment in clean area, preferably in clean container/baggie (change regularly)
- Check machine for mold, spills, etc. regularly
- Machine filter (some can be cleaned; others must be replaced)

Nebulizer equipment

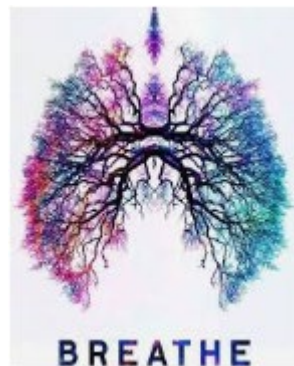


Nebulizer machines with equipment

Questions?



peggy.douglas@doh.wa.gov





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



Bivalent Update

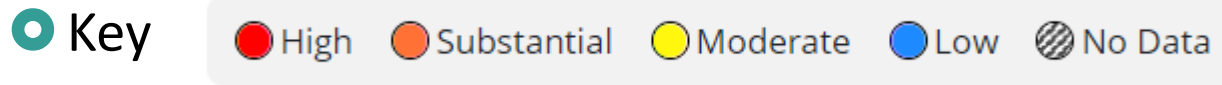
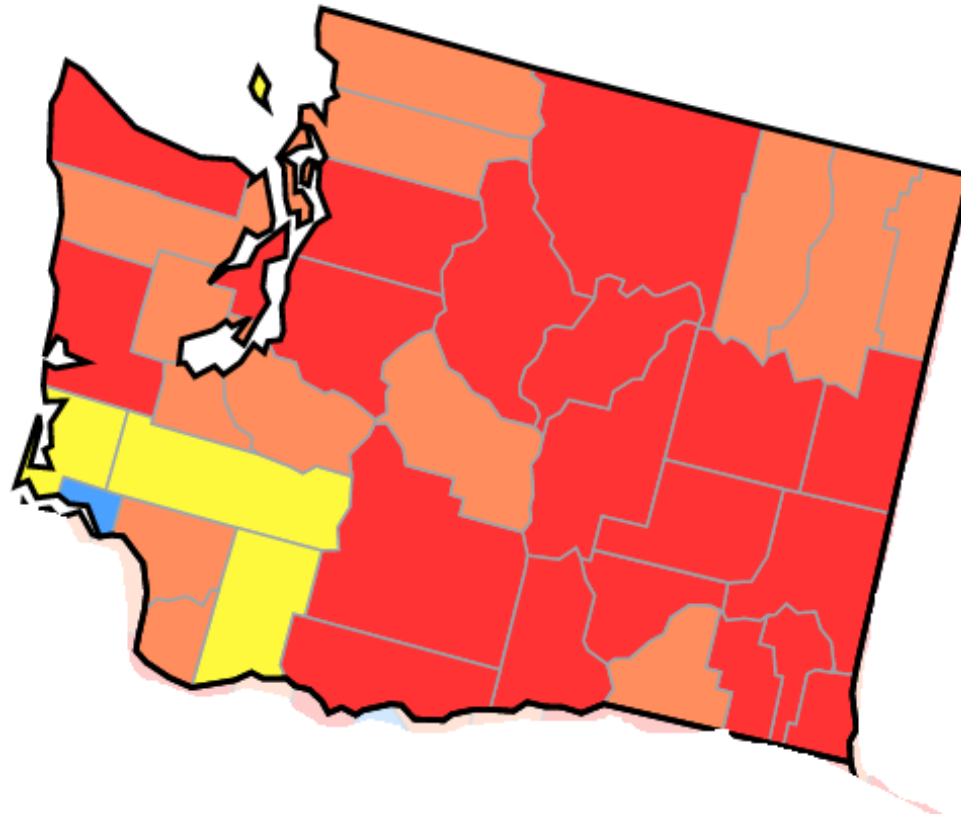
- **Until Bivalent Vaccine is Available:** A person is up to date on all COVID-19 vaccines when they have received all eligible vaccine doses in the primary series and all recommended monovalent booster doses. Once the bivalent vaccine is widely available, up to date will mean boosted with a bivalent vaccine. [022-09-13-1.pdf \(wa.gov\)](#)

Examples:	Up to Date	Not Up to Date
A person has received the primary vaccine series and monovalent boosters as recommended by CDC and the bivalent vaccine is not accessible through the vaccine provider	x	
A person has received the primary vaccine series, monovalent boosters, and the bivalent vaccine once it is available	x	
A person has received the primary vaccine series and monovalent boosters <u>but not the bivalent vaccine once it is available</u>		x

PPE Reminders

- Remember to establish a PPE supplier
- Make sure you have a pathway for emergency supplies if necessary
- The process is outlined at the following links. Contact your local health department directly or email any questions to ppe@doh.wa.gov.
 - [PPE for Facilities | DSHS \(wa.gov\)](#)
 - <https://doh.wa.gov/about-us/programs-and-services/emergency-preparedness-and-response/ppe-backstop>
- **Important:** Fit testing and Respiratory Protection Program requirements are not affected by the proclamations being rescinded. Continue to follow the guidelines on our fit testing page: [Respiratory Protection Program for Long-Term Care Facilities | Washington State Department of Health](#)

Today's COVID-19 Community Transmission rates



[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.