

# 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

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



# Panelists

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# 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](mailto: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
<a href="mailto:HAI@doh.wa.gov">HAI@doh.wa.gov</a>	General healthcare associated infection questions
<a href="mailto:HAI-Covid@doh.wa.gov">HAI-Covid@doh.wa.gov</a>	COVID19-specific healthcare associated infection questions
<a href="mailto:HAIEpiOutbreakTeam@doh.wa.gov">HAIEpiOutbreakTeam@doh.wa.gov</a>	Epidemiological outbreak assistance and healthcare associated infection questions
<a href="mailto:HAI-FieldTeam@doh.wa.gov">HAI-FieldTeam@doh.wa.gov</a>	Schedule an ICAR for your facility
<a href="mailto:HAI-FITTesting@doh.wa.gov">HAI-FITTesting@doh.wa.gov</a>	Respiratory Protection related questions <a href="http://www.doh.wa.gov/ltrcpp">www.doh.wa.gov/ltrcpp</a>

# Respiratory Protection Program LTC Facility Support

DOH Occupational Health Team assists with:

- Written program
- Medical evaluation
- N95 user training
- Fit testing
- Fit test training



We are here to help you understand the L&I rules and regulations on Respiratory Protection

Email questions to: [HAI-FitTest@doh.wa.gov](mailto:HAI-FitTest@doh.wa.gov)

Visit our website: [www.doh.wa.gov/ltrcpp](http://www.doh.wa.gov/ltrcpp)



# AFH Training Opportunity

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Protecting Residents from Influenza in Your Adult Family Home

What: Flu webinar

Where: Online

When: October 5, 2022, 1:30-3:00pm

Cost: No cost

[Registration link](#)

For more information visit our [Special Projects](#) web page

# Enhanced Barrier Precautions Webinars for Nursing Facilities

Join DOH and RCS for a 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 provide an overview of EBP and resources to assist with implementation and information from RCS.

EBP Webinars schedule:

- **Tuesday, Oct 11 2-3 pm:**
  - Registration link:  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_jwqIP3TDRs22eNxpIID64w](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_jwqIP3TDRs22eNxpIID64w)
  - **Tuesday, Oct 25 2-3 pm:**
  - Registration link:  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_n5oDMo2ES5CuY7XkMi3iGA](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>

# NHSN Webinar for Nursing Facilities

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The CDC National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) Vaccination Unit is providing a webinar to review updates to annual healthcare personnel influenza vaccination summary data reporting through the NHSN Healthcare Personnel Safety Component for the 2022-2023 influenza season.

**When:** Tuesday, September 27, 2022 at 1:30 PM ET

**Topic:** Annual Influenza Vaccination Updates for Long-term Care Facilities

**Register in advance for this webinar:**

[https://cdc.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN\\_KgDBA9zjTDaQKGXPB\\_MKamg](https://cdc.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_KgDBA9zjTDaQKGXPB_MKamg)

# Project Firstline Podcast

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## 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

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<b>Category</b>	<b>Past</b>	<b><u>Fall 2022</u></b>
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

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

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### 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!

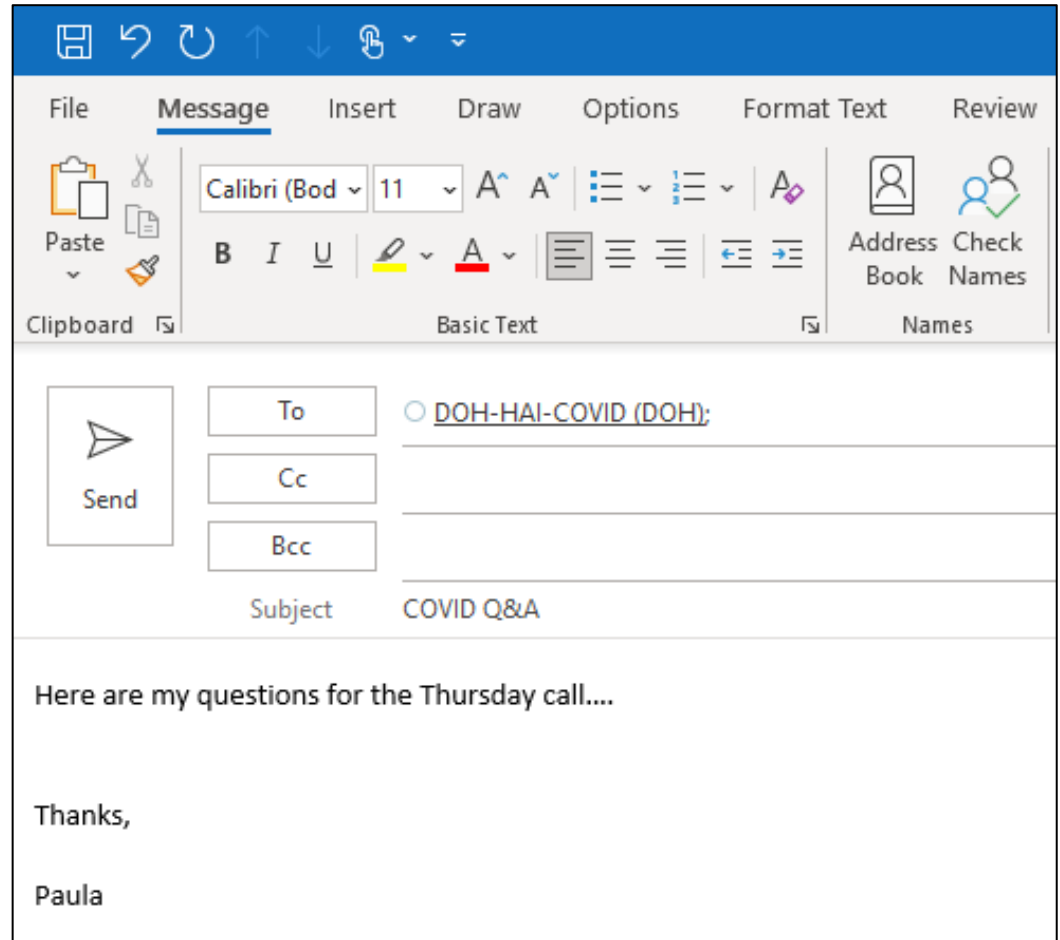
- Micro learning topics – what do you want to learn more about that will help with your facility infection control practices?
- Input your ideas into Question window noting “Topics: ...”
- Or send to [HAI-COVID@doh.wa.gov](mailto:HAI-COVID@doh.wa.gov)
- *Thank you!*

# How to Submit Your Questions

**Subject Line:**  
COVID Q&A Call

**Email:**  
[HAI-COVID@doh.wa.gov](mailto:HAI-COVID@doh.wa.gov)

**Due by:** COB Monday



## Updated COVID Outbreak Definition from CSTE

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- On Monday 9/26/22- CSTE will be announcing new COVID outbreak definitions for healthcare settings
  - Already posted on their website
  - Adds healthcare-worker-only outbreaks
- DOH plans to adopt this new definition; possibly not until 1/1/23
- New definition is up on the CSTE website [HC-Outbreak-Definition.pdf \(cste.org\)](https://www.cste.org/HC-Outbreak-Definition.pdf)
- More information to follow

# Upcoming LTC Q&A Micro Learning Presentations

## Today's presentation:

- To reschedule
- Immunization Records Polling today!

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

**Oct – TBD** - Medical Test Site Waiver (rescheduled)

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

# 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

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# End of Governor's State of Emergency

Ends 10/31/2022

- Ends all governor's proclamations
- Secretary of Health order for masking in healthcare and corrections in place beyond 10/31/2022.

[https://doh.wa.gov/sites/default/files/legacy/Documents/1600/coronavirus/Secretary\\_of\\_Health\\_Order\\_20-03\\_Statewide\\_Face\\_Coverings.pdf?uid=632342c40ba4f](https://doh.wa.gov/sites/default/files/legacy/Documents/1600/coronavirus/Secretary_of_Health_Order_20-03_Statewide_Face_Coverings.pdf?uid=632342c40ba4f)

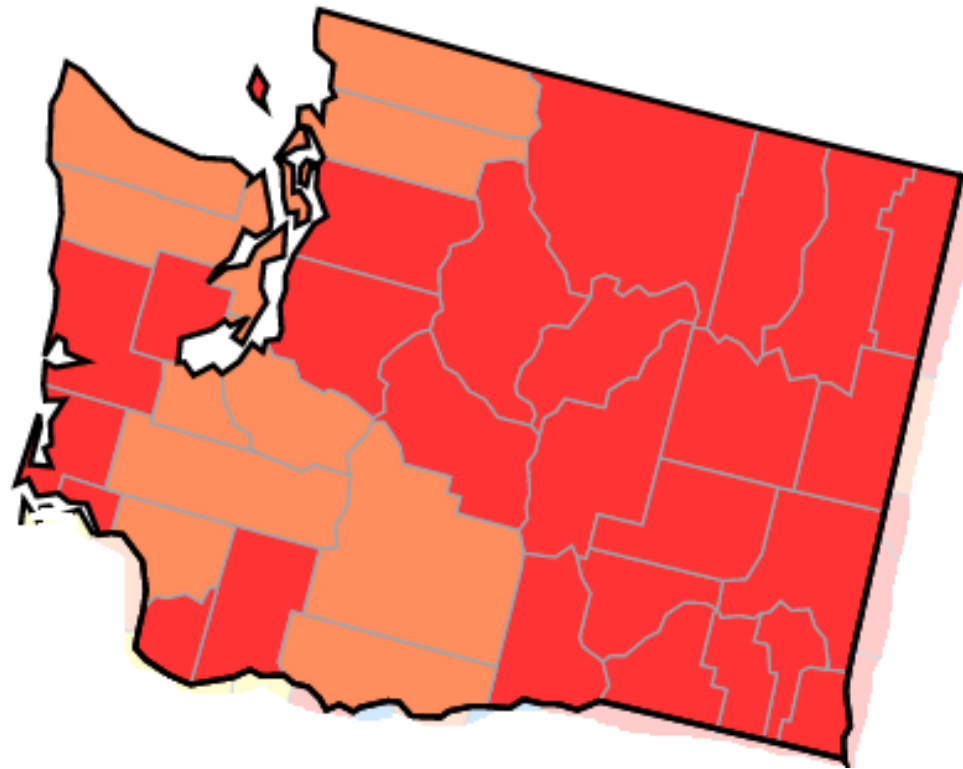


## FAQ's

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- Q: For patients/staff who have gotten a monovalent booster less than two months ago, are they considered up to date even if the bivalent is available?
  - A: Yes, you are considered up to date if you have received all eligible doses for you
- Q: If a staff or resident had COVID less than three months ago, and it has been more than 2 months since their last booster, are they considered up to date?
  - A: Yes, you are still considered up to date within the 90 days after a COVID-19 infection, even if it has been more than 2 months since your last booster

# Today's COVID-19 Community Transmission rates



● Key    ● High    ● Substantial    ● Moderate    ● Low    ● No Data

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



Advancing Adult Immunization Equity & Access

## IMMUNIZATION RECORDS WA IIS LTC Needs



Office of Immunization, Adult Immunization Data Quality, 9/2022

# Normalizing Operations

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THANKS to YOU, LTC Providers! Amazing work done to vaccinate residents & save lives!

1. Moving beyond the pandemic, return the focus back to regular work
2. Office of Immunizations conducts upstream quality improvement work for all populations
3. Advance LTC access & equity to immunization data = DOH regular work
4. Advance supports available to assist LTC partners with staff access and use of WA IIS
5. SHARED GOALS for best resident services & outcomes:  
minimize vaccine preventable diseases, improve care outcomes, advance LTC immunization service quality, and work to meet or exceed national standards for benchmark immunization performance

# Enhancing LTCF Immunizations

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Thank YOU for your continued partnership,  
LTC WA IIS Support Project continues progress in 2022!

## Overview of Project & What to Expect

Fall phase of project: complete formal LTCF baseline needs assessment for all care levels

**Process:** informal surveys, formal survey, develop interventions, launch pilot program & test interventions, then broadly spread best practices across LTC settings

**Plan:** assess gaps, develop LTC supports, & provide for needs

Thank you for Helping  
Advance LTC WA IIS Access & Support:

Partnership Milestones Completed in 2022:

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1. SHORT FACILITY POLLS ON LTC WA IIS USE (MAY & JUNE)
2. WA IIS PRESENTATION & MICRO LEARNING (JUNE)
3. SNF SURVEY: PARTNERED W/ DSHS, WCHA & LEADING AGE (JULY)
4. SHORT BENCHMARK SURVEY DEVELOPED FOR ALL LTCF (AUG)

## PARTNERSHIP NEXT STEPS:

1. Deeper Dive (expanded survey, learn needs, all care levels)  
Define Specific Challenges & Needs by setting

### 2. Develop Program Resources

Provide necessary supports. Develop & share LTCF resources and tools.

3. Deliver bridge supports to LTCFs to help advance access, equity & quality  
Include 1:1 supports, training & at the elbow assistance



Please help us learn your LTC needs related to immunization data supports:



## ANSWER 13 QUESTIONS

Share your experiences & challenges!

TAKE THE LTCF WA IIS USE SURVEY NOW!

Let us know if you'd like to be in a LTC pilot project. [YOU can master WAIS!](#)

THANK YOU TO OUR PROJECT PLANNING TEAM & DOH LTC Q&A CALL PARTNERS:

Amy Abbot, DSHS  
Elena Madrid, WHCA  
Laura Hoffman, Leading Age WA

Jill Carter, HAI  
Paula Parsons, HAI





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](mailto:civil.rights@doh.wa.gov).

It's Polling Time!

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## SURVEY PART 3: Q.#3

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Our facility would like to be included in a pilot project with DOH to improve immunization information system access. The estimated total time required from 1 facility staff member is 1-3 hours maximum, broken into multiple contacts which may include a group participant 30-minute meeting, and at the elbow virtual assistance as required, to ensure necessary support for system use & user comfort with understanding for successful system navigation.

Yes

No

Unsure

# Q & A Section

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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.