Welcome!

- All lines are muted, so please ask your questions in Q&A
- For technical issues, chat to the ‘Technical Support’ Panelist
- Please actively participate in polling questions that will pop up on the lower righthand side of your screen

We will get started shortly!
Marilee Johnson, MBA, MT (ASCP)

INFECTION PREVENTION TECHNICAL ADVISOR

Marilee is a health professional with experience in public health epidemiology, infection prevention, and clinical microbiology. Recently, she worked with nursing homes through a national CDC project to reduce *C. difficile* infections. She continues to support nursing homes with reporting infections into the National Healthcare Safety Network and reducing health acquired infections.

Marilee loves gardening, hiking, reading, yoga, and spending time with her family.

marilee.johnson@allianthealth.org
Amy Ward, MS, BSN, RN, CIC

INFECTION PREVENTION SPECIALIST

Amy is a registered nurse with a diverse background in acute care nursing, microbiology, epidemiology and infection control. She is passionate about leading and mentoring new and future infection preventionists in their career paths. Over the past several years, her focused efforts in C. difficile infection reduction lead to significant local improvements in patient outcomes, antimicrobial use, and C. difficile rates.

Amy enjoys spending time with family. She loves all the time she can get outdoors cycling and running.

Contact:
Amy.Ward@AlliantHealth.org
Objectives

• “Confer rights” to Alliant Quality
• Identify the new infection prevention guidelines and how they impact your facility
• Interpret the definition of “vaccinated”
• Understand how to calculate your staff and resident vaccination rates and the impact for your facility
• Know where to find resources to add users, add rights, reassign roles in NHSN (hint Shop Talk Shorts)
• Understand how to check your NHSN data for quality assurance
NHSN DATA

Resident and Staff Cases and Deaths

TOTAL RESIDENT COVID-19 CONFIRMED CASES
640,271

TOTAL RESIDENT COVID-19 DEATHS
130,174

TOTAL STAFF COVID-19 CONFIRMED CASES
552,660

TOTAL STAFF COVID-19 DEATHS
1,623

COVID-19 Among Nursing Home Residents

**Total Cases**  
635,818

**Total Deaths**  
129,375

**Estimated Recoveries**  
433,251

---

**Trend of New Cases and Deaths**

- **Measure**: Resident Confirmed COVID-19 Cases, Resident COVID-19 Deaths

---

**Data Through**: Week ending Feb 21, 2021 (*Latest week’s data is preliminary and represents fewer nursing homes than other weeks*)

**Source**: NHSN  
**Notes**: May 24 includes collective historic data and is excluded from the graph since it does not capture that specific week. Estimated recoveries made using a 3-week disease period using NHSN cases and deaths.

---

[https://www.ahcancal.org/Data-and-Research/Pages/default.aspx](https://www.ahcancal.org/Data-and-Research/Pages/default.aspx)  
date accessed 03/09/21
Be a COVID-19 Variant Strain Detective

Be on alert when COVID-19 tests are positive for persons who have been:

• Vaccinated
• In contact with someone who has a variant strain
• To Brazil and South Africa

Notify your state health department!

Join & Confer Rights to Alliant Quality

Group Name: Alliant Quality-LTC
Group ID: 83378      Joining Password: Alliant20!

March 15, 2021

NHSN LTC Users:

The NHSN web application is currently experiencing technical issues that affect users reporting in the Long-Term Care COVID-19 Module. The following issues have been reported and are being investigated:

- Data previously entered in NHSN will appear to be missing and may or may not re-appear at subsequent login for Weekly COVID-19 data, or Point-of-Care (POC) Test data
- Loss of rights to previous access to enter or view Staff POC test data in the facility.

If your facility experiences any of these issues, do not re-enter missing data. Please contact NHSN@cdc.gov with subject line “LTCF Data Validation”.

In the body of your email, please identify the type of data involved (for instance, POC data). NHSN staff will confirm that your data has been received by our data base administrators and provide additional instruction.

We have also informed CMS of these issues.

Thank you,

NHSN Team
New Quality Assurance Alerts

3/11/21
NEW Action Items & Alerts

Resident Impact and Facility Capacity

Date Created: 10/25/2020 10:21PM

Counts should be reported on the correct calendar day and include only the new counts for the calendar day (specifically, since counts were last collected, count is zero, a '0' must entered as the response. A blank response is equivalent to missing data. NON-count questions should be answered one calendar during the reporting week.

Facility Capacity:
- ALL BEDS (enter on first survey only; unless the total bed count has changed)
- 92
- 68
- CURRENT CENSUS: Total number of beds that are occupied on the reporting calendar day

Resident Impact for COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2)

- ADMISSIONS: Number of residents admitted or readmitted from another facility who were previously diagnosed with COVID-19 and continue to require transmission-based precautions. Exclude recovered residents.
- POSITIVE TESTS (previously called “Confirmed”): Number of residents newly positive for COVID-19 based on a viral test result.

COVID-19 Data Alerts

- 3 COVID-19 Data Alerts
- 1 Missing Summary Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COVID-19 Data Form Type</th>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>QA Flag Description</th>
<th>Confirmed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25/2020 RIFC</td>
<td>Resident - CONFIRMED</td>
<td>Repeat of any high value &gt; 10 between 2 consecutive days</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13/2020 Staff</td>
<td>Staff - CONFIRMED</td>
<td>Multiple repeats of the same value for consecutive days</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/2020 Staff</td>
<td>Staff - CONFIRMED</td>
<td>Multiple repeats of the same value for consecutive days</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Quality Assurance Best Practices

Review data in 3 places each week

Visit data.cms.gov

Export your facility data from NHSN.

Action Item Alerts

Be aware of Quality Assurance Rules:
– Email NH_COVID_Data@cms.hhs.gov
& nhsn@cdc.gov with concerns.
3/10/21

Updated CMS & CDC Guidance for Infection Control

Core Principles of Infection Prevention

Must be adhered to at all times

1. Screening of all who enter the facility for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 (e.g., temperature checks, questions about and observations of signs or symptoms), and denial of entry of those with signs or symptoms or those who have had close contact with someone with COVID-19 infection in the prior 14 days (regardless of the visitor’s vaccination status)

2. Hand hygiene (use of alcohol-based hand rub is preferred)

3. Face covering or mask (covering mouth and nose)

4. Social distancing at least six feet between persons

5. Instructional signage throughout the facility and proper visitor education on COVID-19 signs and symptoms, infection control precautions, other applicable facility practices (e.g., use of face covering or mask, specified entries, exits and routes to designated areas, hand hygiene)

6. Cleaning and disinfecting high-frequency touched surfaces in the facility often, and designated visitation areas after each visit

7. Appropriate staff use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

8. Effective cohorting of residents (e.g., separate areas dedicated to COVID-19 care)

9. Resident and staff testing conducted as required at 42 CFR § 483.80(h) (see QSO20-38-NH)

CMS Revised Visitation Guidelines

Indoor Visitation for all residents **except**:

1. **Unvaccinated** residents, if the nursing home’s COVID-19 county positivity rate is >10% and <70% of residents in the facility are fully vaccinated;

2. Residents with confirmed COVID-19 infection, whether vaccinated or unvaccinated until they have met the criteria to **discontinue Transmission-Based Precautions**;

3. Residents in quarantine, whether vaccinated or unvaccinated, until they have met criteria for release from quarantine.

New integrated CDC COVID tracker updated daily!


Positivity Rate (Cases Over All Results)

https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/testing/differences-in-positivity-rates
accessed 3/11/21
Progress towards Vaccination of Population ≥65

Consider Displaying Your **Facility** Vaccination Rate

**Example: Week Ending March 13th**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Staff</th>
<th>Resident</th>
<th>County Positivity Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Target</strong></td>
<td>&gt;75%</td>
<td>&gt;70%</td>
<td>&lt;10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rate</strong></td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Target >75% or higher

Target >70%

TARGET <10%
Quarantine Lift for Vaccinated New Admissions

Quarantine is no longer recommended for residents who are being admitted to a post-acute care facility if they are fully vaccinated and have \textit{not} had prolonged close contact with someone with SARS-CoV-2 infection in the prior 14 days.

(close contact: \textit{Within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period})
**Definition of Vaccinated Resident**

**Fully vaccinated** refers to a person who is:

- ≥2 weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or
- ≥2 weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine

- Documentation is important!

Interfacility Transfer form: [https://www.alliantquality.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/AQ_InterFacility-Transfer-Form_12SOW-AHSQIN-QIO-TO1NH-21-491_508.pdf](https://www.alliantquality.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/AQ_InterFacility-Transfer-Form_12SOW-AHSQIN-QIO-TO1NH-21-491_508.pdf)

* Disclaimer: I have not seen a cut-off date for how long the vaccine lasts. Stay tuned.
What is Your Facility’s Resident Vaccination Rate?

Target 70% for all residents

*Important for visitation guidance criteria

Are you tracking this rate in NHSN?

…more on this later
Things Change When You Have a New Positive COVID Case...
New Visitation Guidance

When there is a new COVID case (resident or staff)

Step 1: Suspend visitation facility wide
Step 2: Test all residents and staff immediately facility wide
  ✓ If no additional positive tests are found in other units, visitation can resume in the areas with no cases.
  ✓ If >1 new case (s) are discovered in other areas of the facility, suspend visitation facility-wide until the facility meets criteria to discontinue outbreak testing*
Step 3: Notify visitors/post signs of potential COVID-19 exposure
Step 4: Continue to follow outbreak testing guidance and suspend visitation if new cases are found.

*Outbreak testing is discontinued when testing identifies no new cases of COVID-19 infection among staff or residents for at least 14 days since the most recent positive result. For more information see CMS Memorandum QSO-20-38-NH [https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-20-38-nh.pdf](https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-20-38-nh.pdf)
The Importance of Staff Vaccination Rate

Target 75% of all staff by June 30, 2021

Campaign tool kits:
https://getvaccinated.us/

What can you do to increase your facility’s vaccination rate?
• Post personal testimonies of staff who chose to get vaccinated
• Raffles/gift cards
• One-to-one counseling by a respected person in a leadership role
• Track your rates and reward facility milestones.


https://www.ahcancal.org/News-and-Communications/Press-Releases/Pages/Vaccines-Help-Drive-Drastic-Decline-In-COVID-Cases-In-Long-Term-Care-Facilities.aspx
Track Your Vaccine Rates Weekly in NHSN
(you’ll need this data, trust me)
Vaccine Math...NHSN Can Help!

NHSN offers a weekly tracking format for both resident and staff

Here is why this is important.....(Visitation guidance on next slide)

Review The Training slides:

https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/ltc/weekly-covid-vac/index.html
Submit Vaccine Data Weekly

1. Complete these items:
   - Dashboard
   - Daily Entry
   - POC Test Result Reporting
   - COVID-19 Vaccination - HCW
   - COVID-19 Vaccination - Residents
   - Missing Summary Data

2. Healthcare Personnel COVID-19 Cumulative Vaccination Summary for Long-Term Care Facilities

3. Please contact your state or local health jurisdiction if there is insufficient supply of COVID-19 vaccine(s) for your facility's HCP:

4. For the current reporting week, please describe the availability of COVID-19 vaccine(s) for your facility's HCP:

4.1. * Is your facility enrolled as a COVID-19 vaccination provider?  [Y] Yes  [N] No

4.2. * Did your facility have a sufficient supply of COVID-19 vaccine(s) to offer all HCP the opportunity to receive COVID-19 vaccine?
Submit Vaccine Data Weekly

- Make sure to submit CUMULATIVE data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>All HCP</th>
<th>Week 1</th>
<th>Week 2</th>
<th>Week 3</th>
<th>Week 4</th>
<th>Week 5</th>
<th>Week 6</th>
<th>Week 7</th>
<th>Week 8</th>
<th>Week 9</th>
<th>Week 10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 dose</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 &amp; 2 dose</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| declined | 50 | 50 | 50 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 35 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| partial rate completed rate | 50% | 50% | 50% | 30% | 30% | 30% | 15% | 20% | 20% | 0% |

1. Number of HCP that were eligible to have worked at this healthcare facility for at least 1 day during the week of data collection
2. Cumulative number of HCP (in question #1) who have received COVID-19 vaccines at this facility or
   *Number of HCP (Total)
   - All HCP
3. Completed rate of COVID-19 vaccine
   - Any completed COVID-19 vaccine series
   - 100%
Vaccination Summary
> Navigate to the entry you wish to change
> Click on the data tab
What if I put the wrong numbers in last week?

Click in the box to edit your numbers. And don’t forget to SAVE!
NHSN has you covered for Staff and Residents

Analysis > Generate Data Sets > Reports >
COVID-19 Module > COVID-19 Vaccination
Select a report > Run Report

Vaccine math made easy (thanks to NHSN)
Voila! (it’s magic)

Vaccination Rate for Residents by 2/14 is 78%

*hint: You can do the same for staff*
Vaccination summary

- Target Goal for Nursing Homes (your choice)
  - >70% of residents
  - >75% of staff

- Continue to work with your pharmacy to complete vaccinations for **all** staff, residents & new admissions.

- Track your vaccinations and vaccine rates in NHSN for visitation confirmation

https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/ltc/weekly-covid-vac/index.html
https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#vaccinations
https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7005e2.htm?s_cid=mm7005e2_x

34
NHSN Review

your facility can have up to 30 people added as active users

“How many back-up users have you added?”
Best Practice for who should have access with administrative rights to your facility account in NHSN

**Hint:**
Always add admin & staff rights so the user will be able to analyze data and add future users.

A nursing home does weekly testing on health care personnel, including part-time staff. If a part-time unvaccinated staff person tests positive for COVID-19, and has not worked in the facility for the past 2 weeks:

Does the facility report this as a positive test in the staff and personnel impact pathway?

Would you go into Outbreak Testing?

Do you report in the POCT module?
**Answer**

Does the facility report this as a positive test in the staff and personnel impact pathway? No

Would you go into Outbreak Testing? No

Do you report in the POCT module? Yes


Shop Talk Shorts YouTube Channel

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLXWmxni-xNHspWHhLlIrqcLGlzXZPljlF
Hand Hygiene Poster & Badge “Ribbit”

https://www.alliantquality.org/topic/hand-hygiene/
Mark Your Calendar!

Shop Talk 3rd Thursdays at 2pm ET:

June 17th 2021:

Visit our website for More info:
https://www.alliantquality.org/topic/shop-talks/
Questions?

• Please put your questions into the Q & A.
Thank You for Your Time!
Contact the Patient Safety Team

Marilee H. Johnson, MBA, MT (ASCP)
Technical Advisor, Infection Prevention
Marilee.Johnson@AlliantHealth.org | 919.695.8331

Amy Ward, MS, BSN, RN, CIC
Infection Prevention Specialist
Amy.Ward@AlliantHealth.org | 678.527.3653

Melody Brown, MSM
Aim Manager, Patient Safety
Melody.Brown@AlliantHealth.org | 678.527.3466