

Shop Talk: NHSN Updates & Technical Assistance

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!



Quality Improvement Organizations

Sharing Knowledge. Improving Health Care.
CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES



The Quality Improvement Services Group of
ALLIANT HEALTH SOLUTIONS

Shop Talk: NHSN Updates & Technical Assistance



March 2021

Presented by:

Marilee H. Johnson, MBA, MT (ASCP)

Technical Advisor, Infection Prevention



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

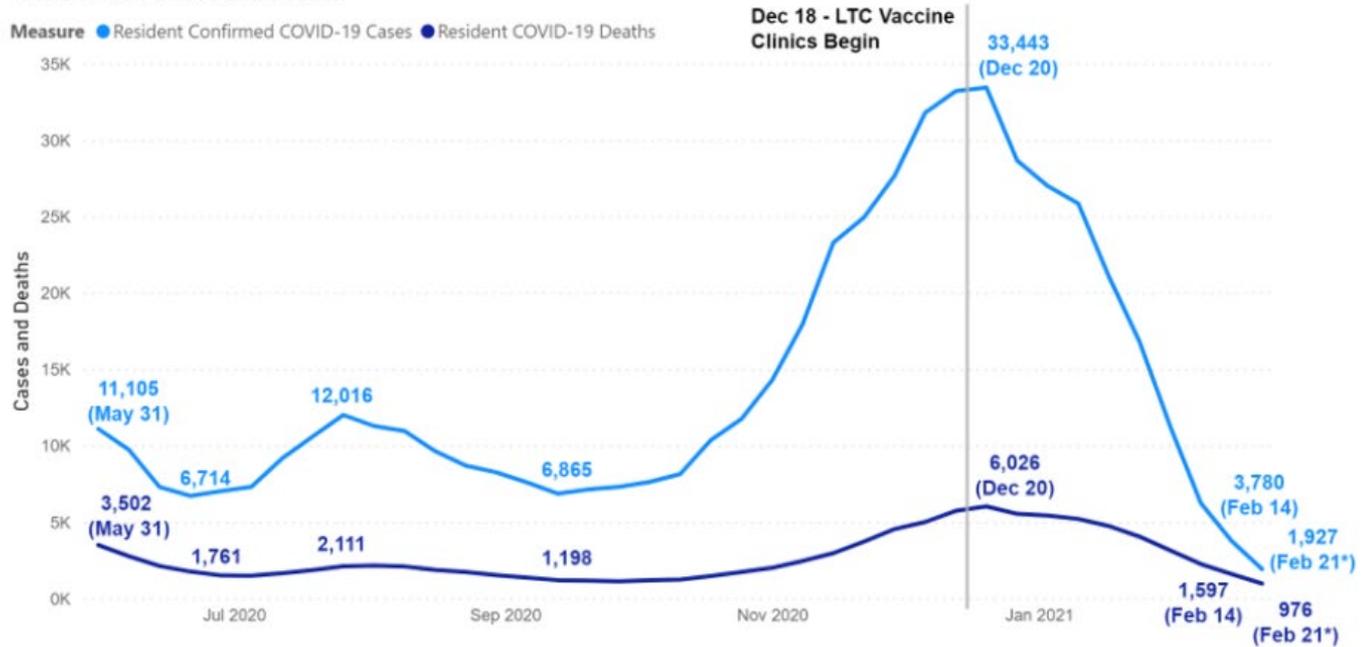
129,375

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.

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!

https://www.aphl.org/programs/preparedness/Crisis-Management/Documents/FEB%202021%20Revised%20NS3%20Submission%20Guidance_02052021%20FNL.pdf

Join & Confer Rights to Alliant Quality

Group Name: Alliant Quality-LTC

Group ID: 83378 Joining Password: Alliant20!

NHSN LV1 Home

- Alerts
- COVID-19
- Users
- Facility
- Group**
 - Confer Rights
 - Join**
 - Leave
 - Nominate
- Logout

Memberships

Groups that have access to this facility's data

Confer Rights

Leave Group(s)

Enter ID and Password for this facility to join a new group

Group ID:

Group Joining Password: **Join Group**

Back

Confer Rights-Long Term Care

! Please review the data rights that "LTCF Test Group" is requesting from your facility:
- Verify locations
- Press "accept" button to confer rights or [review current rights before accepting new rights](#)

General

- Facility Information
- COVID-19 View Data
- COVID-19 CSV Data Upload

Accept

https://www.alliantquality.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/TO1_NHSNGroups_12SOW-AHSQIN-QIO-TO1NH-20-391_508.pdf

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

NHSN - National Healthcare Safety Network

NHSN Home

- Alerts
- Dashboard ▶
- Reporting Plan ▶
- Resident ▶
- Event ▶
- Summary Data ▶
- COVID-19 ▶
- Vaccination Summary
- Import/Export
- Surveys ▶
- Analysis ▶
- Users ▶
- Facility ▶
- Group ▶
- Logout



NHSN Long Term Care Facility Component Home Page

▶ Long Term Care Dashboard

▼ Action Items

COMPLETE THESE ITEMS

Survey Required
2020

Confer Rights
Not Accepted

ALERTS

3
COVID-19 Data Alerts

1
Missing Summary Data

Selected Month: 10/25/2020 Facility ID: 11000 Facility Type: LTC SKILLED

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 day during the reporting week.

Facility Capacity

<input type="text" value="92"/>	ALL BEDS (enter on first survey only, unless the total bed count has changed)
<input type="text" value="68"/>	*CURRENT CENSUS: Total number of beds that are occupied on the reporting calendar day

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

<input type="text" value="0"/>	ADMISSIONS: Number of residents admitted or readmitted from another facility who were previously diagnosed with COVID-19 and continue to require transmission-based precautions. <u>Excludes</u> recovered residents.
	POSITIVE TESTS (previously called "Confirmed"): Number of residents newly positive for COVID-19 based on a viral test result.
**TEST TYPE: Based on the number of reported Positive Tests, indicate how many were tested using each of the following:	

	COVID-19 Data Form Type		Variable	QA Flag Description	Confirmed
/25/2020	RIFC		Resident - CONFIRMED	Repeat of any high value >10 between 2 consecutive days	N
/13/2020	Staff		Staff - CONFIRMED	Multiple repeats of the same value for consecutive days	N
/10/2020	Staff		Staff - CONFIRMED	Multiple repeats of the same value for consecutive days	N

Quality Assurance Best Practices

Review data in **3** places each week

Visit data.cms.gov

<https://data.cms.gov/Special-Programs-Initiatives-COVID-19-Nursing-Home/COVID-19-Nursing-Home-Dataset/s2uc-8wxp/data>

Export your facility data from NHSN.

<https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/pdfs/covid19/lcf/faq-cms-datarelease-508.pdf>

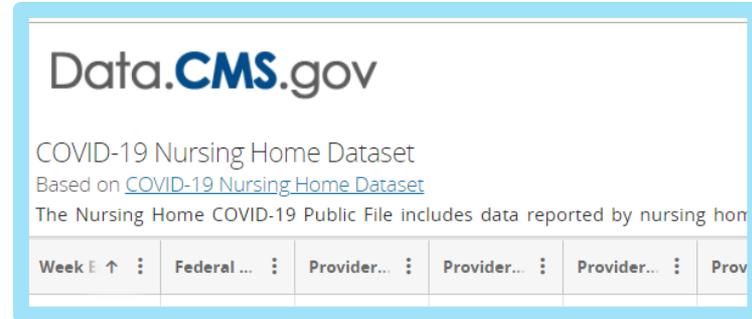
Action Item Alerts

Be aware of Quality Assurance Rules:

<https://data.cms.gov/Special-Programs-Initiatives-COVID-19-Nursing-Home/Nursing-Home-Data-QA/bqa5-3dzf>

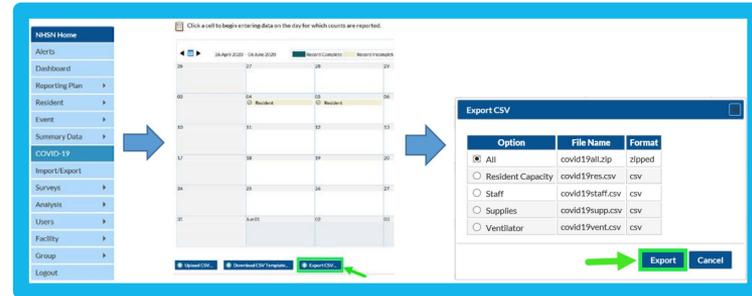
– Email NH_COVID_Data@cms.hhs.gov
& nhsn@cdc.gov with concerns.

1



The screenshot shows the Data.CMS.gov website. The main heading is "Data.CMS.gov" in blue. Below it, the text reads "COVID-19 Nursing Home Dataset" and "Based on [COVID-19 Nursing Home Dataset](#)". A sub-heading states "The Nursing Home COVID-19 Public File includes data reported by nursing hom". At the bottom, there is a table with columns: "Week E ↑", "Federal ...", "Provider...", "Provider...", "Provider...", and "Prov".

2



The screenshot shows the NHSN Home interface. On the left is a navigation menu with options like Alerts, Dashboard, Reporting Plan, Resident, Event, Summary Data, COVID-19, Import/Export, Surveys, Analysis, Users, Facility, Group, and Logout. The main area displays a calendar grid for "Resident Capacity" and "Resident Remarks" from April 2021 to June 2021. A green arrow points to the "Export CSV" button at the bottom. To the right, an "Export CSV" dialog box is open, showing a table with columns "Option", "File Name", and "Format". The "All" option is selected, resulting in a file named "covid19all.zip" in "zipped" format. Other options include "Resident Capacity" (csv), "Staff" (csv), "Supplies" (csv), and "Ventilator" (csv). A green arrow points to the "Export" button in the dialog.

3



The screenshot shows a section titled "ALERTS". On the left is a vertical red bar. To its right, a white box contains the number "3" in a large font, with "COVID-19 Data Alerts" written below it.

3/10/21

Updated CMS & CDC Guidance for Infection Control

<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-20-39-nh-revised.pdf>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-after-vaccination.html>

Core Principles of Infection Prevention

Don't
forget the
basics

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 COVID19 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)

<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-20-39-nh-revised.pdf>

[https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/long-term-care.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/long-term-care.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fhealthcare-facilities%2Fprevent-spread-in-long-term-care-facilities.html)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/long-term-care.html>

CMS Revised Visitation Guidelines

Use NHSN to track your vaccine status

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.

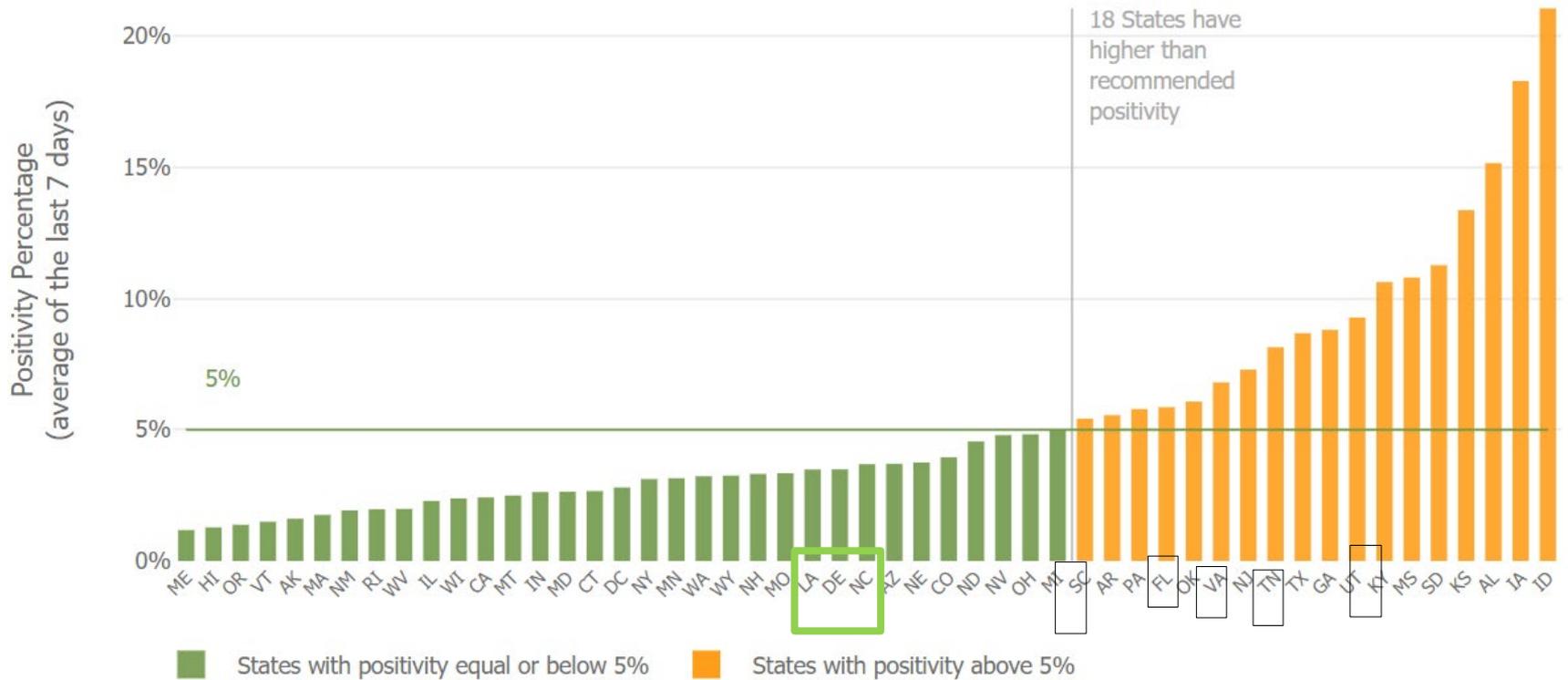
Monitor your county positivity rate *

New integrated CDC COVID tracker updated daily!
<https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>

Visitation guidance for families: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/visiting-love-ones-nursing-home.pdf>

*county positivity rates are posted on the CMS data website [here](#).

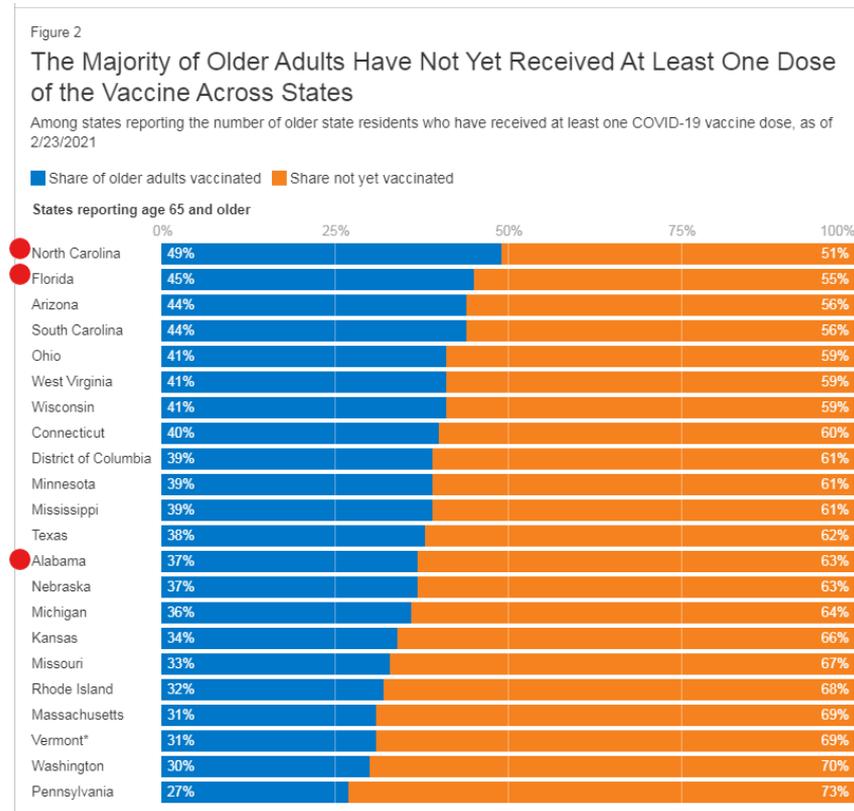
Positivity Rate (Cases Over All Results)



<https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/testing/differences-in-positivity-rates>

accessed 3/11/21

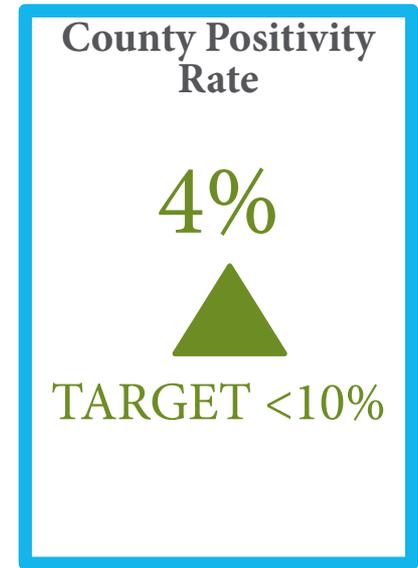
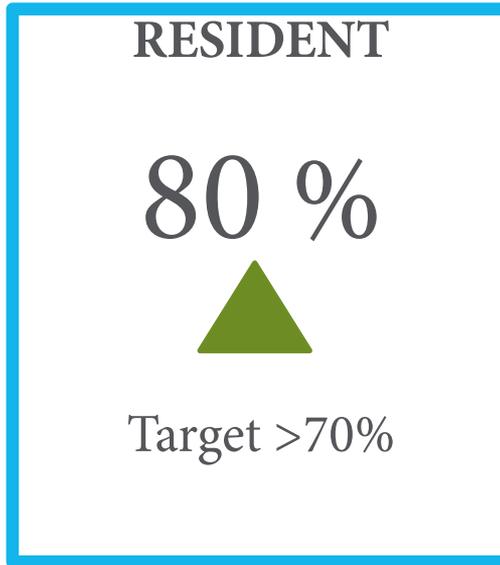
Progress towards Vaccination of Population ≥ 65



<https://www.kff.org/coronavirus-covid-19/issue-brief/vaccinating-older-adults-in-the-us-against-covid-19-a-work-in-progress/>

Consider Displaying Your Facility Vaccination Rate

Example: Week Ending March 13th



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 **not** had **prolonged close contact with someone with SARS-CoV-2 infection** in the prior 14 days.

(close contact: 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

* 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>

The Importance of Staff Vaccination Rate

Target **75%** of *all* staff by June 30, 2021

Campaign tool kits:

<https://getvaccinated.us/>

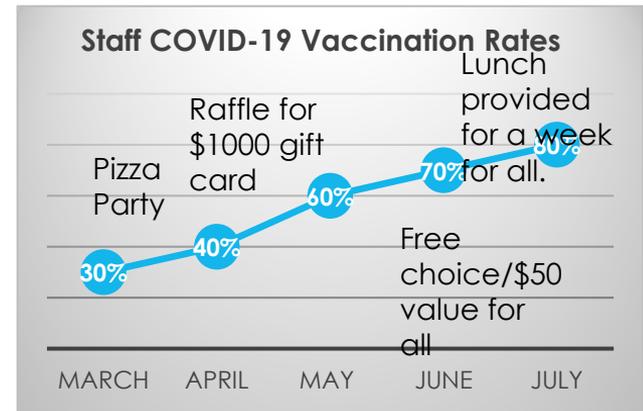
<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/toolkits/long-term-care/downloads/answering-staff-questions.pdf>

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.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/toolkits/long-term-care/index.html>

<https://www.ahcancal.org/News-and-Communications/Press-Releases/Pages/Vaccines-Help-Drive-Drastic-Drop-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!

Long-term Care Facility Component	-	Data COVID
LTCF COVID-19 Module	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Co• CC• Re• CC• St• Av• M• Ve
COVID-19 Module Enrollment		
Increasing LTCF SAMS Level Access to NHSN		
MDRO & CDI		
UTI		
Prevention Process Measures		The P
HCP & Resident Vaccination		provi
HCP & Resident COVID-19 Vaccination		state
LTCF Data Validation Guidance		data
Newsletters & Archived Communications	+	surve
		Week
		Addit
		Vacci
		LTCF
		for m
		-t---

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/pdfs/ltc/covid_vax/weekly-covid-reporting-508.pdf

<https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/ltc/weekly-covid-vac/index.html>

Submit Vaccine Data Weekly

1

Summary Data ▶

COVID-19 ● ▶

Vaccination Summary

Import/Export

Surveys ▶

Analysis ▶

Users ▶

Facility ▶

Group ▶

COMPLETE THESE ITEMS

- Dashboard
- Daily Entry
- POC Test Result Reporting
- COVID-19 Vaccination - HCW** ●
- COVID-19 Vaccination - Residents** ●
- Missing Summary Data

2

Flu Vaccine: Residents Flu Vaccine: HCW **COVID-19 Vaccine: HCW** COVID-19 Vaccine: Residents

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

*Facility ID: 59979 *Vaccination type: COVID19
*Week of Data Collection: 03/08/2021 - 03/14/2021 *Date Last Modified: 03/12/2021

Cumulative Vaccination Coverage	
	*All HCP (Total)
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	<input type="text" value="200"/>
	*All HCP (Total)
2. Cumulative number of HCP in Question #1 who have received COVID-19 vaccine(s) at this facility or elsewhere: Add vaccine: <input type="text" value=""/>	
2.3 *Only dose 1 of Moderna COVID-19 vaccine	<input type="text" value="20"/>
2.4 *Dose 1 and dose 2 of Moderna COVID-19 vaccine	<input type="text" value="80"/>
*Any completed COVID-19 vaccine series	<input type="text" value="80"/>
	*All HCP (Total)
3. Cumulative number of HCP in Question #1 with other conditions:	
3.1 *Medical contraindication to COVID-19 vaccine	<input type="text" value="0"/>

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?

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(s) for the current reporting week?

Submit Vaccine Data Weekly

- Make sure to submit CUMULATIVE data

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Week 8	Week 9	Week 10
All HCP	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1 dose	50	50	50	30	30	30	15	20	20	0
1 & 2 dose	0	0	0	50	50	50	80	80	80	100
declined	50	50	50	20	20	20	35	0	0	0
partial rate	50%	50%	50%	30%	30%	30%	15%	20%	20%	0%
completed rate	0%	0%	0%	50%	50%	50%	80%	80%	80%	100%

	* All HCP (Total)
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	<input type="text"/>
	* All HCP (Total)
2. Cumulative number of HCP in Question #1 who have received COVID-19 vaccine(s) at this facility or Add vaccine: JANSSEN - Janssen COVID-19 vaccine	<input type="text"/>
2.3 *Only dose 1 of Moderna COVID-19 vaccine	<input type="text"/>
2.4 *Dose 1 and dose 2 of Moderna COVID-19 vaccine	<input type="text"/>
2.5 *Dose of Janssen COVID-19 vaccine	<input type="text"/>
*Any completed COVID-19 vaccine series	0
	* All HCP (Total)

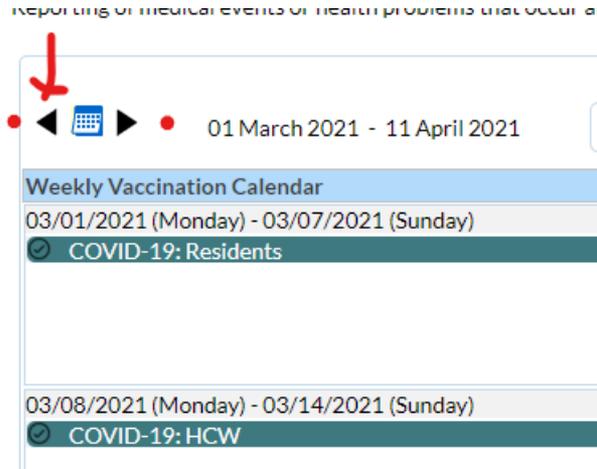
3. Cumulative number of HCP in Question #1 with other conditions:

What if I put the wrong numbers in last week?

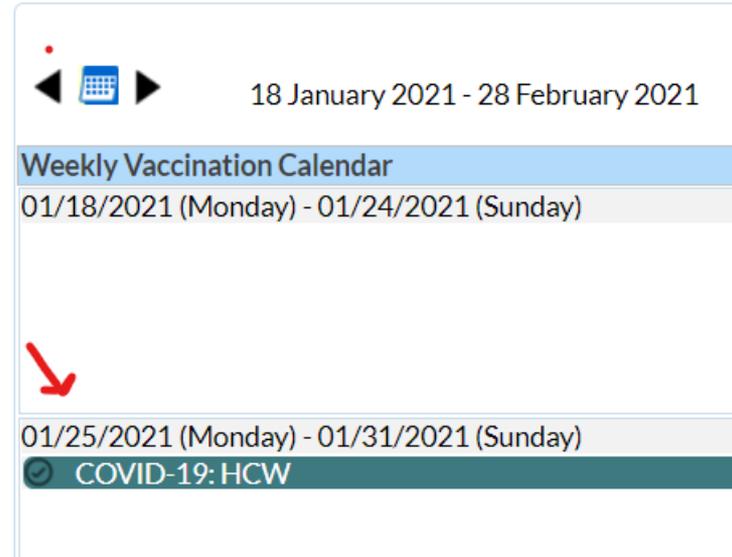
1



2



3



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?

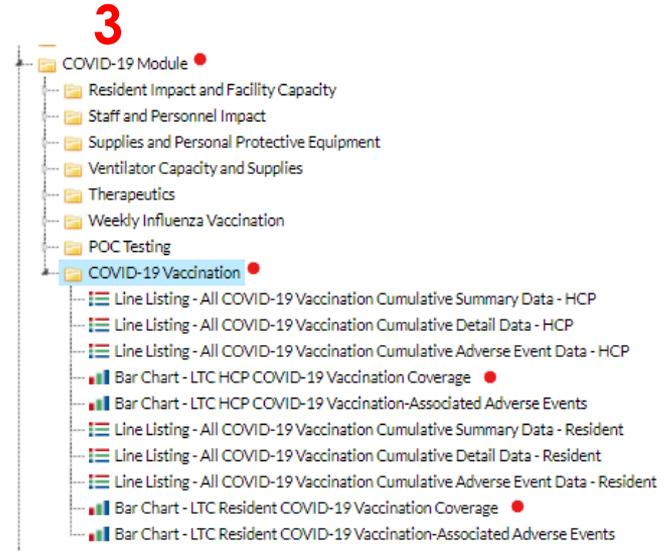
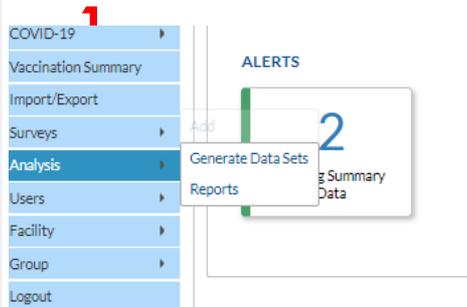
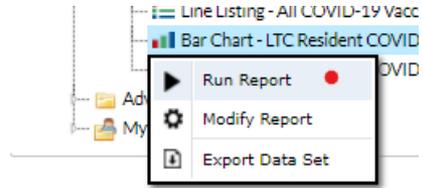
Click in the box to edit your numbers.
And don't forget to SAVE!

The screenshot shows the 'Edit Vaccine Data' interface. At the top, there are tabs for 'Flu Vaccine: Residents', 'Flu Vaccine: HCW', 'COVID-19 Vaccine: HCW', and 'COVID-19 Vaccine: F'. Below the tabs, the title is 'Healthcare Personnel COVID-19 Cumulative Vaccination Summary for Long-Term Care Facilities'. The form includes fields for Facility ID (59979), Vaccination type (COVID19), Week of Data Collection (01/25/2021 - 01/31/2021), and Date Last Modified (03/08/2021). A table titled 'Cumulative Vaccination Coverage' is shown, with columns for 'All HCP (Total)', 'Ancillary services employees^a', 'Nurse employees^b', and 'Aide, assistant, and temporary employees^c'. The first row of the table has a description: '1. *Number of HCP that were eligible to have worked at this healthcare facility for at least 1 day'. The input field for 'All HCP (Total)' contains the number '80'. A red arrow points to this input field. At the bottom right, there are 'Save' and 'Cancel' buttons. A red circle highlights the 'Save' button.

	*All HCP (Total)	Ancillary services employees ^a	Nurse employees ^b	Aide, assistant, and temporary employees ^c
1. *Number of HCP that were eligible to have worked at this healthcare facility for at least 1 day	80			

NHSN has you covered for Staff and Residents

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



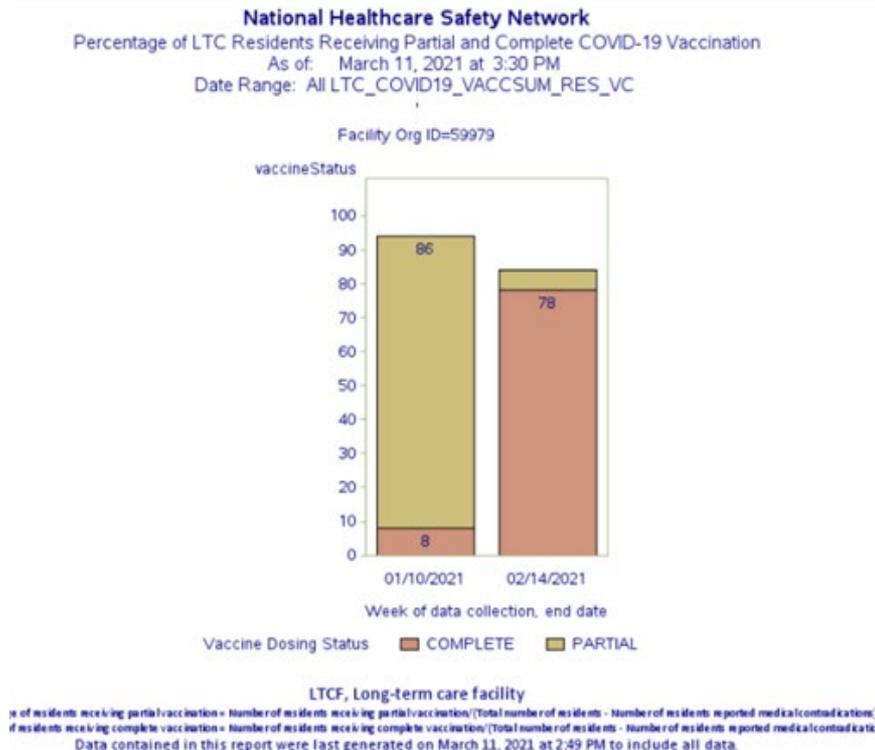
Vaccine math made easy (thanks to NHSN)

Graph of Vaccination Rates in 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/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/pdfs/ltc/covidvax/weekly-covid-reporting-508.pdf>

https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7005e2.htm?s_cid=mm7005e2_x

NHSN Review

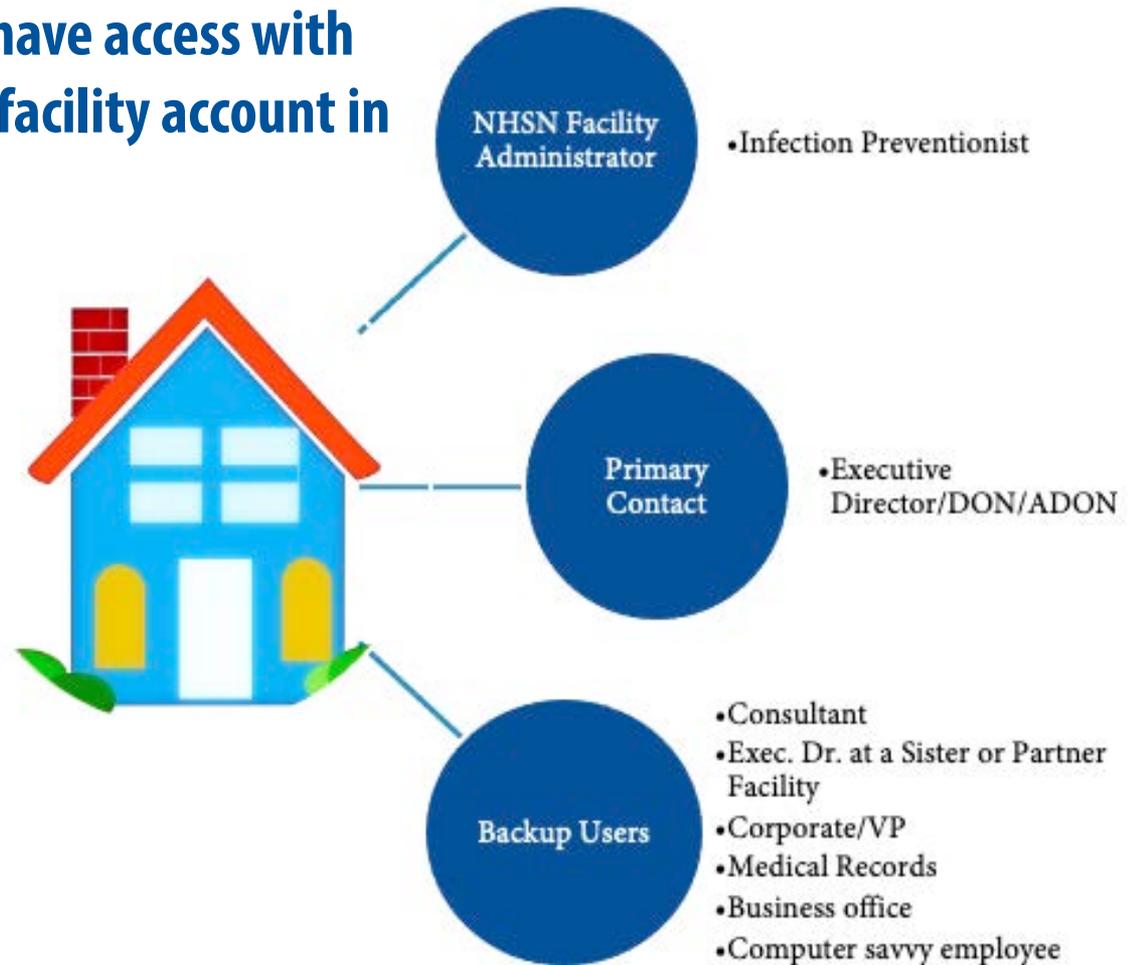
**your facility can have up to 30 people added
as active users**

“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.



Brain Teaser | NHSN Staff Pathway

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

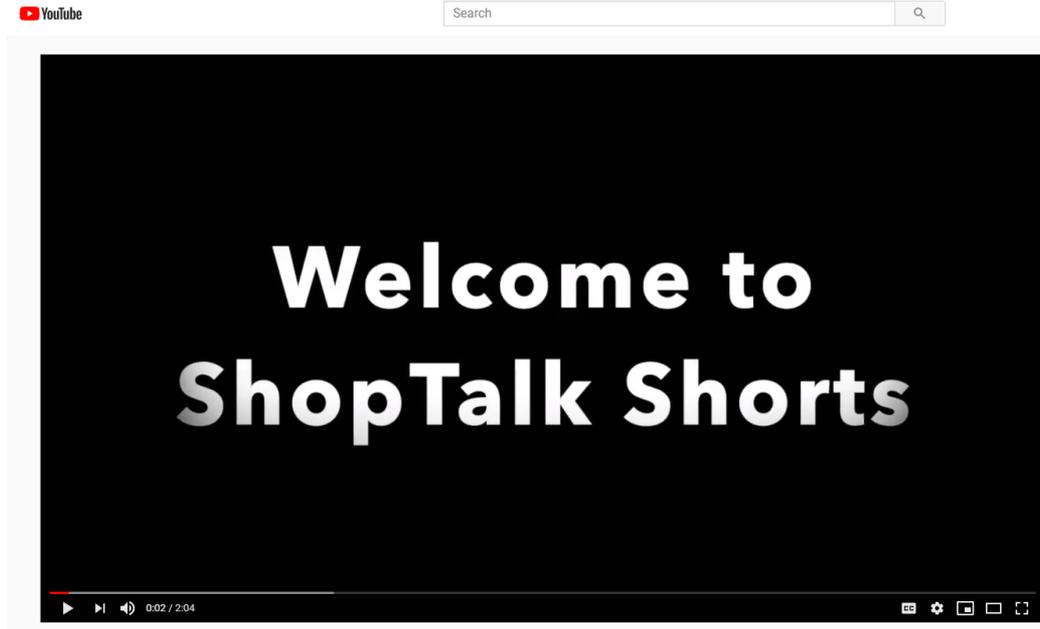
Would you go into Outbreak Testing? No

Do you report in the POCT module? Yes

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-risk-assesment-hcp.html>

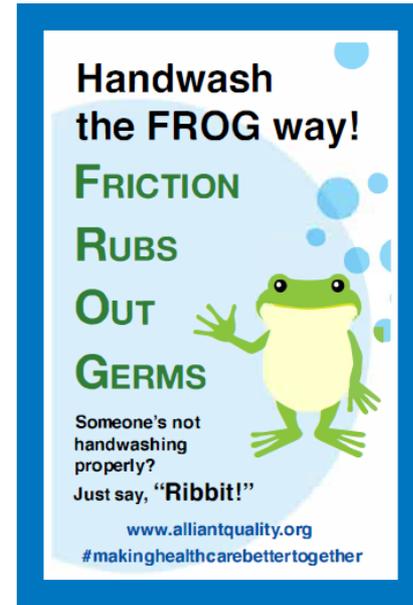
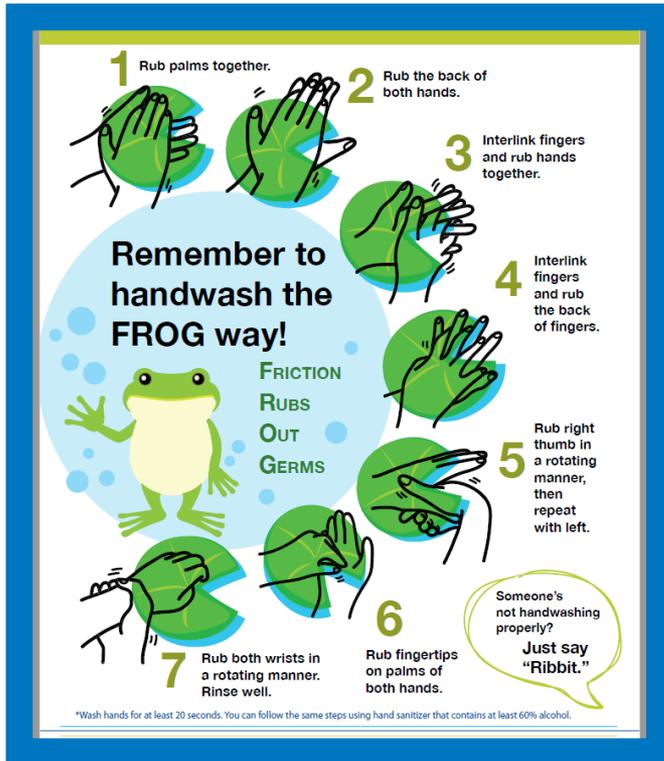
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/long-term-care.html>

Shop Talk Shorts YouTube Channel



<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLXWmxni-xNHspWHhLLIrrqcLGlzXZPljIF>

Hand Hygiene Poster & Badge “Ribbit”



<https://www.alliantquality.org/topic/hand-hygiene/>

Mark Your Calendar!



Shop Talk 3rd Thursdays at 2pm ET:

April 15th 2021: <https://bit.ly/39RQmt5>

May 20th 2021: <https://bit.ly/2KD7zy8>

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

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