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

ALLIANT QUALITY
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

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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

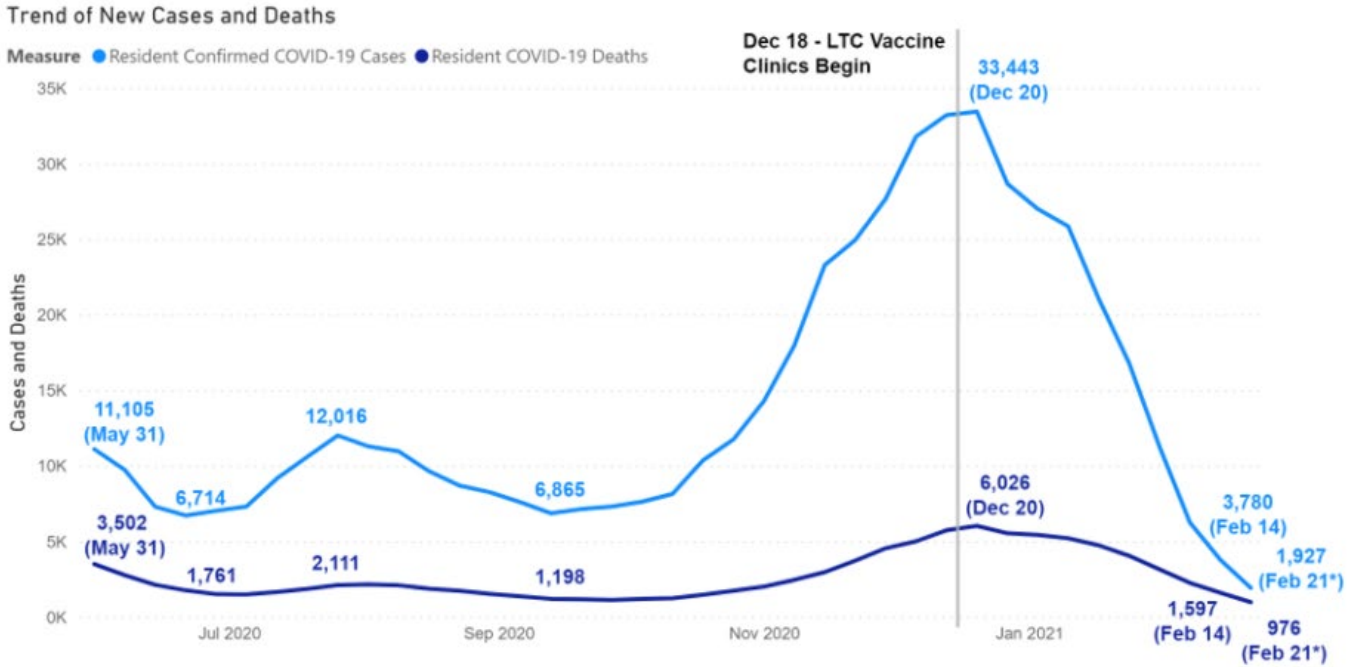
NHSN DATA

Resident and Staff Cases and Deaths

https://data.cms.gov/stories/s/COVID-19-Nursing-Home-Data/bkwz-xpvg accessed 3/11/21

COVID-19 Among Nursing Home Residents

Total Cases	Total Deaths	Estimated Recoveries
635,818	129,375	433,251



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 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

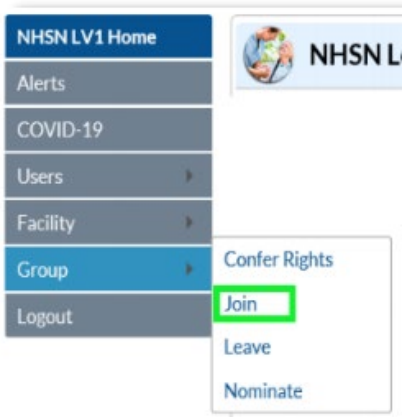
Notify your state health department!

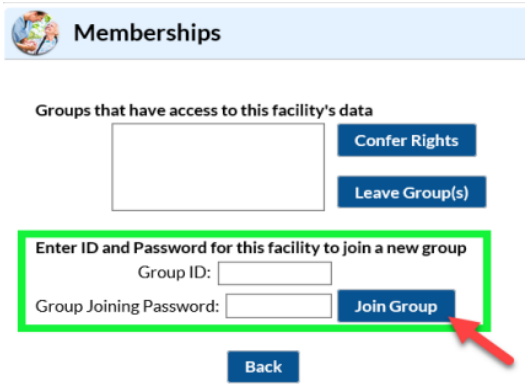
https://www.aphl.org/programs/preparedness/Crisis-Management/Documents/FEB%202021%20Revised%20NS3%20Submission%20Guidance_02052021%20FNL.pdf

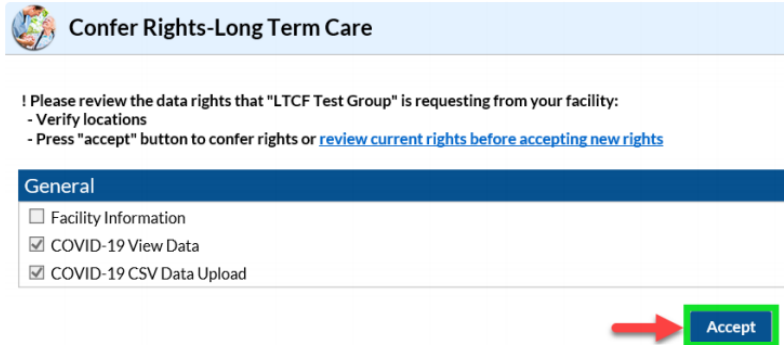
Join & Confer Rights to Alliant Quality

Group Name: Alliant Quality-LTC

Group ID: 83378 Joining Password: Alliant20!







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.

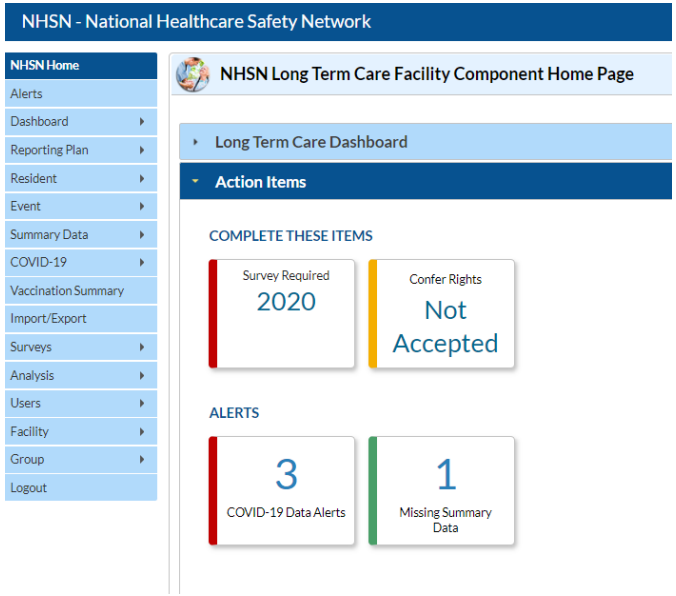
We have also informed CMS of these issues.
Thank you,

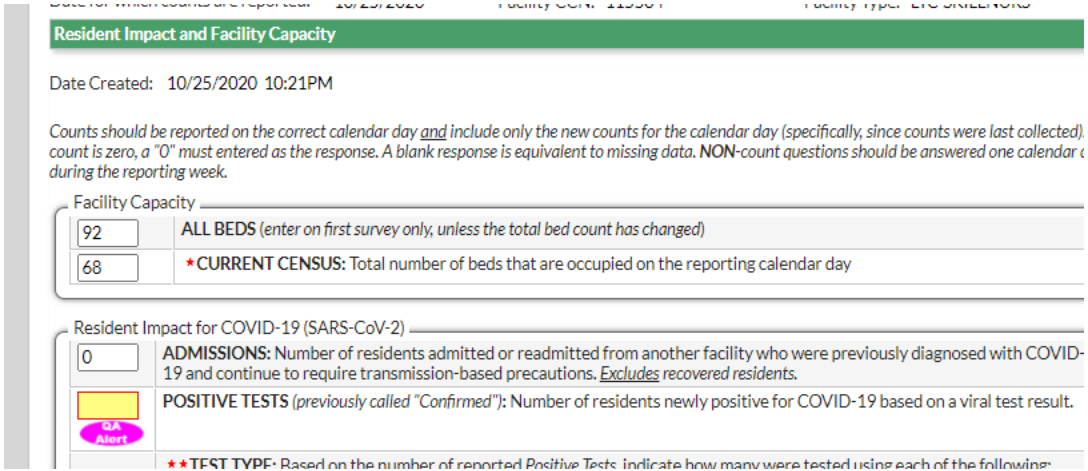
NHSN Team

New Quality Assurance Alerts

3/11/21

NEW Action Items & Alerts





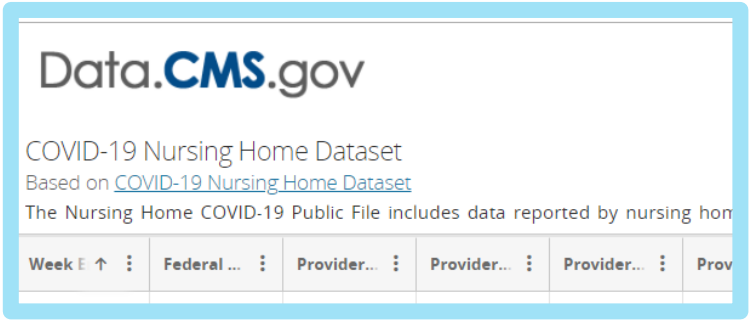
	COVID-19 Data Form Type		Variable	QA Flag Description	Confirmed
/25/2020	RIFC	QA Alert	Resident - CONFIRMED	Repeat of any high value >10 between 2 consecutive days	N
/13/2020	Staff	QA Alert	Staff - CONFIRMED	Multiple repeats of the same value for consecutive days	N
/10/2020	Staff	QA Alert	Staff - CONFIRMED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

Page 1 of 1 50 View 1 - 3 of 3

Quality Assurance Best Practices

Review data in 3 places each week

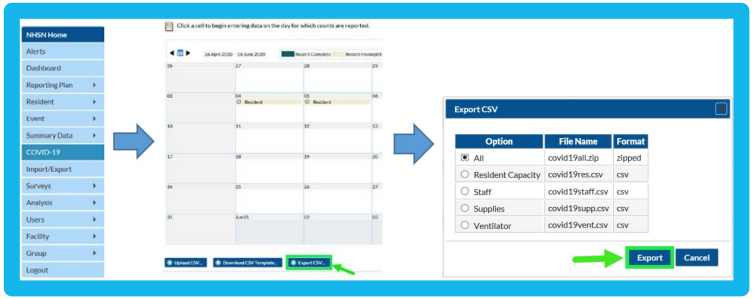
1



Visit data.cms.gov

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

2



Export your facility data from NHSN.

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

3

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.

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?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.

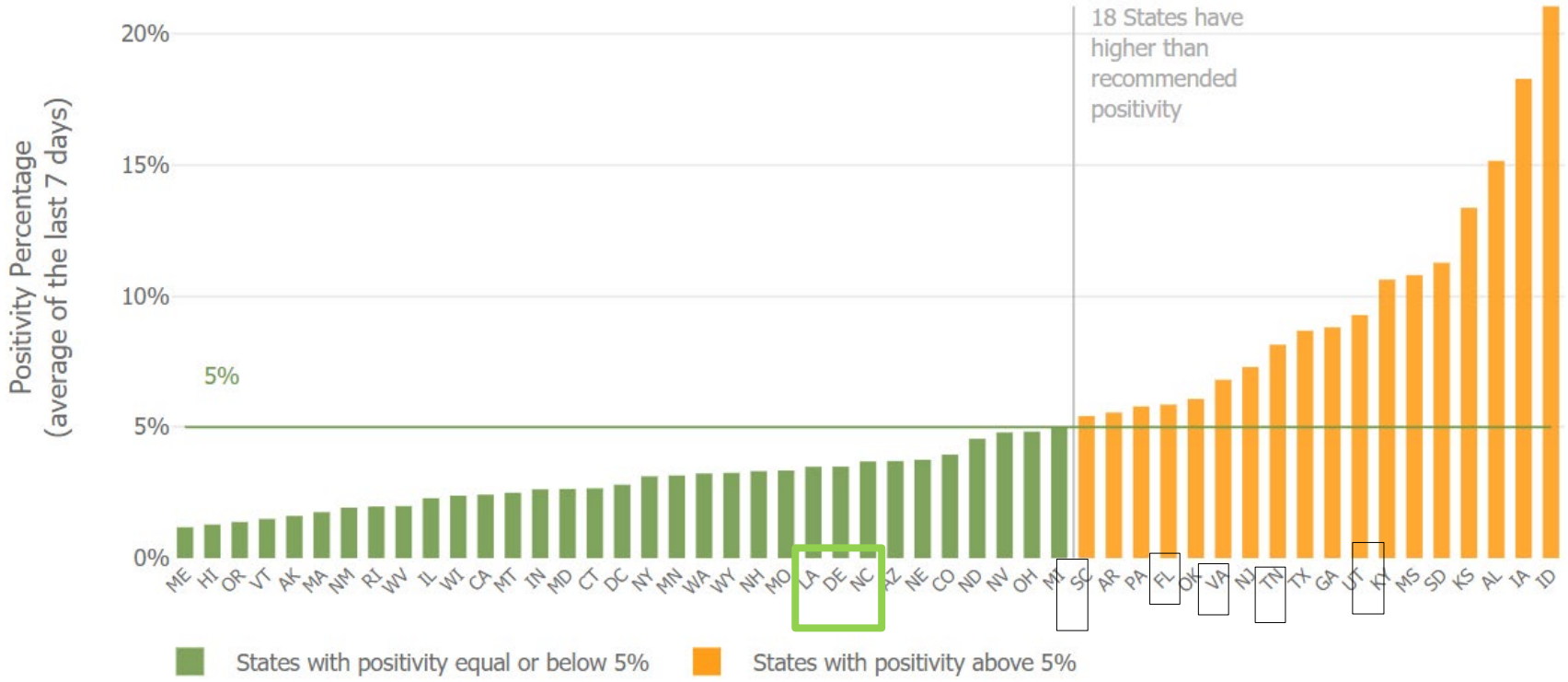
Monitor your county positivity rate *

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.

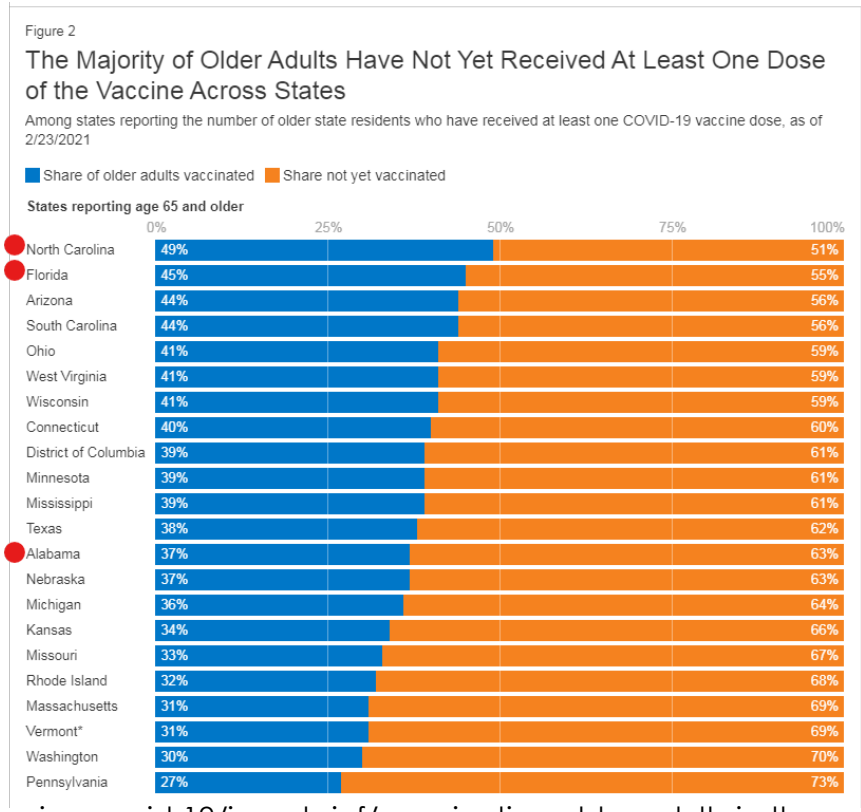
Positivity Rate (Cases Over All Results)



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

STAFF

60%

Target >75% or higher

RESIDENT

80 %

Target >70%

County Positivity Rate

4%

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 **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

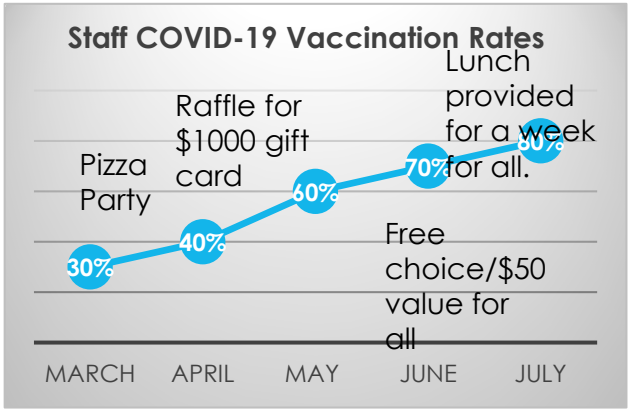
Step 4: Continue to follow outbreak testing guidance and suspend visitation if new cases are found.

*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.

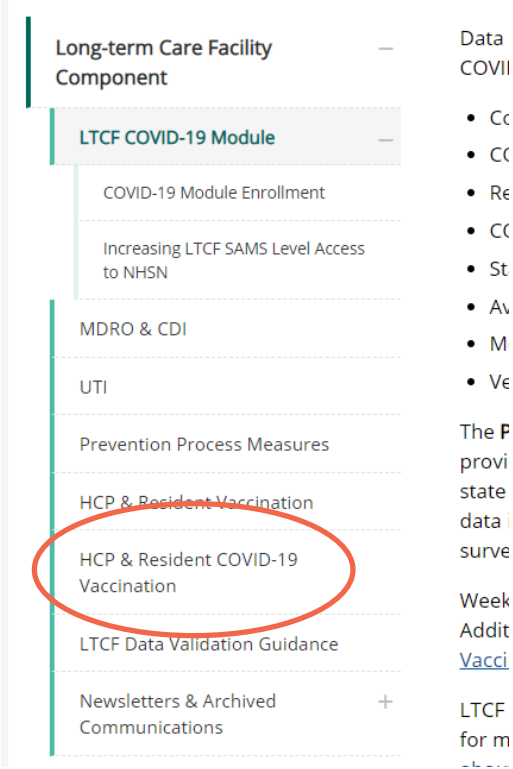
https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/toolkits/long-term-care/index.html

https://www.ahcancal.org/News-and-Communications/Press-Releases/Pages/Vaccines-Help-Drive-Drastic-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/pdfs/ltc/covidvax/weekly-covid-reporting-508.pdf

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

Submit Vaccine Data Weekly

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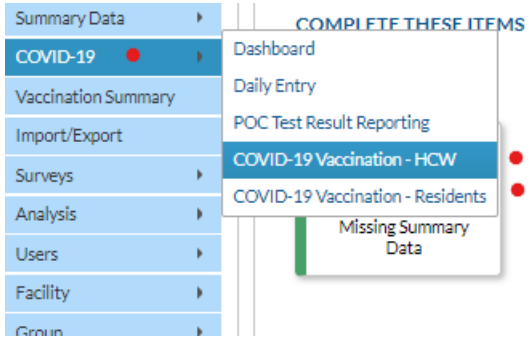

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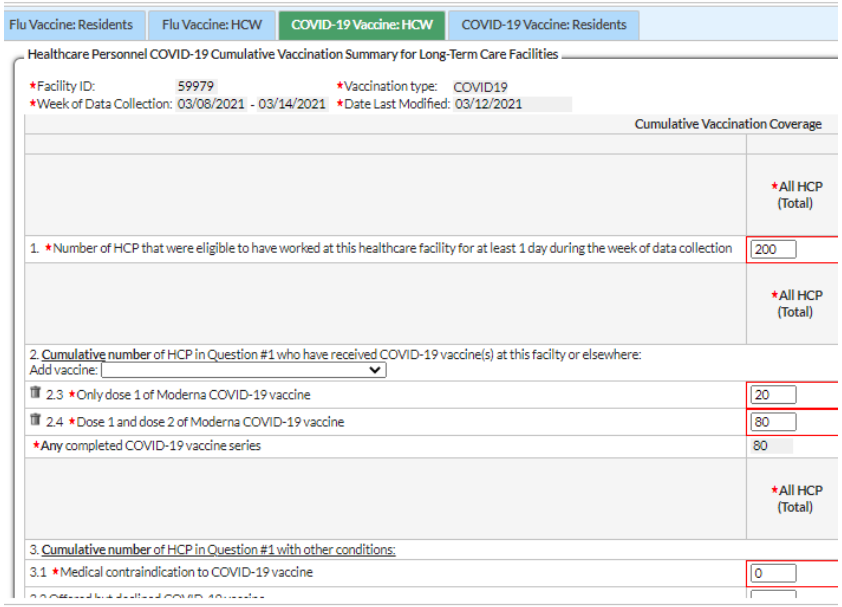

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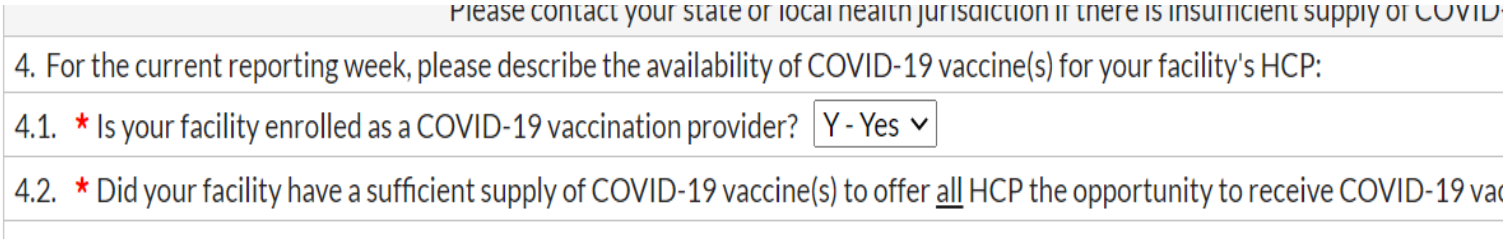
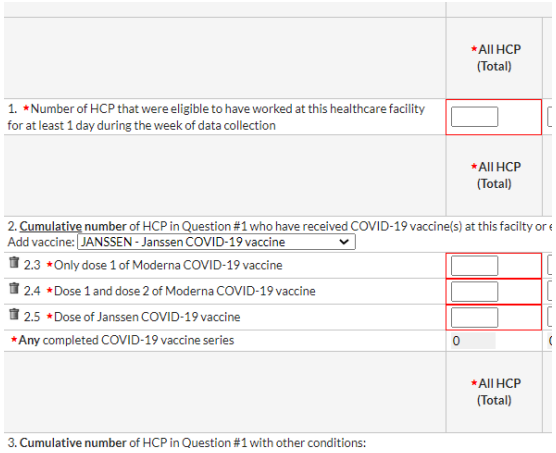


Submit Vaccine Data Weekly

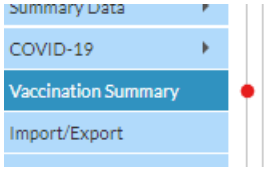
- Make sure to submit CUMULATIVE data

	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%



What if I put the wrong numbers in last week?

1



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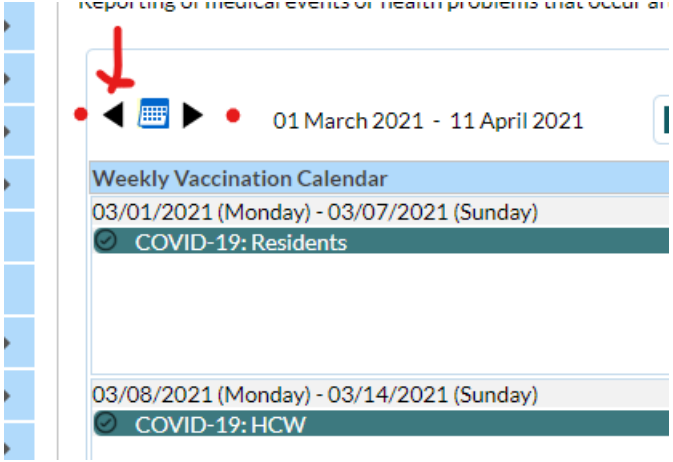

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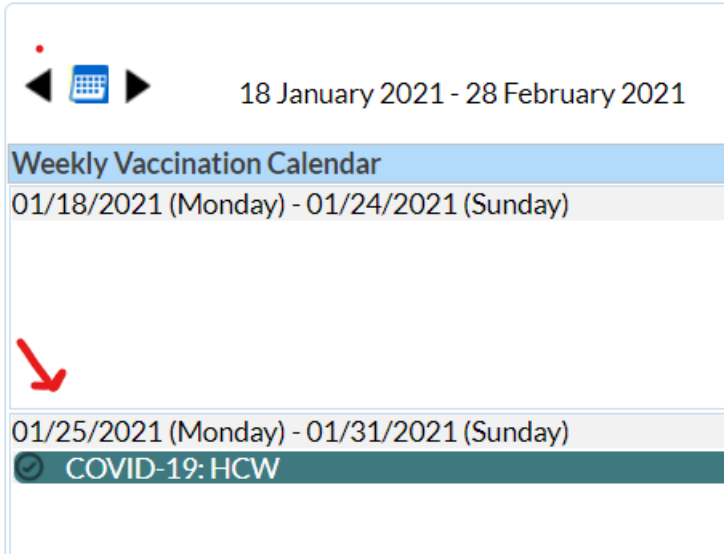
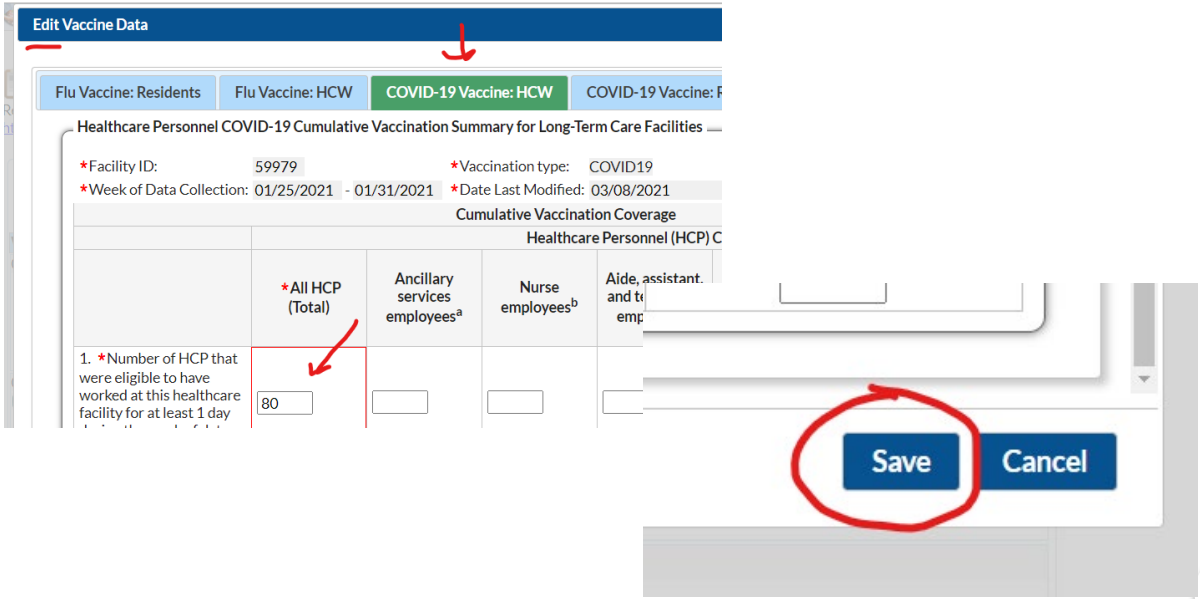


Vaccination Summary
>Navigate to the entry you wish to change
>Click on the data tab

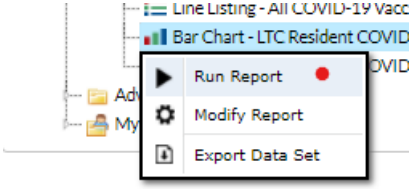
What if I put the wrong numbers in last week?

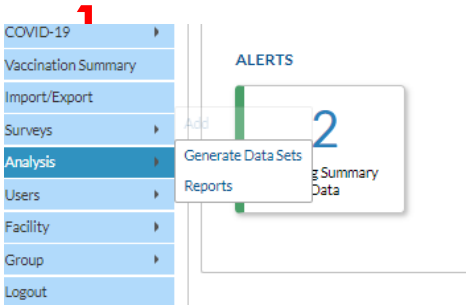
Click in the box to edit your numbers.
And don't forget to SAVE!

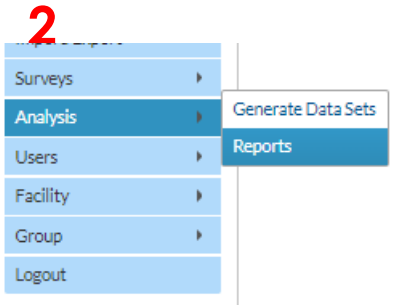


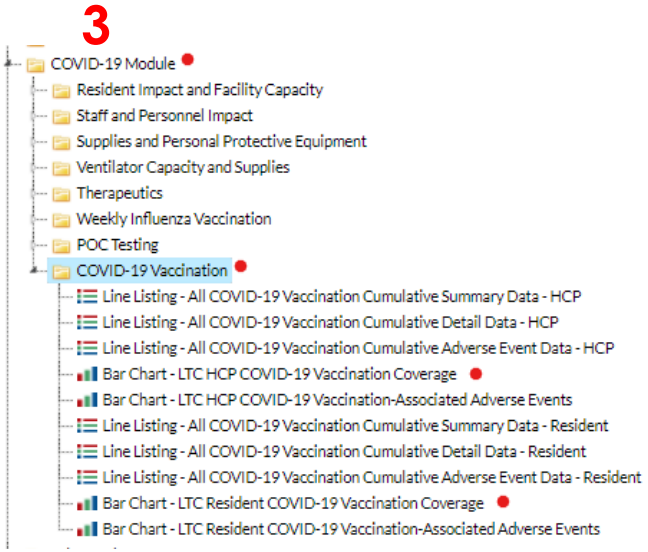
NHSN has you covered for Staff and Residents

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









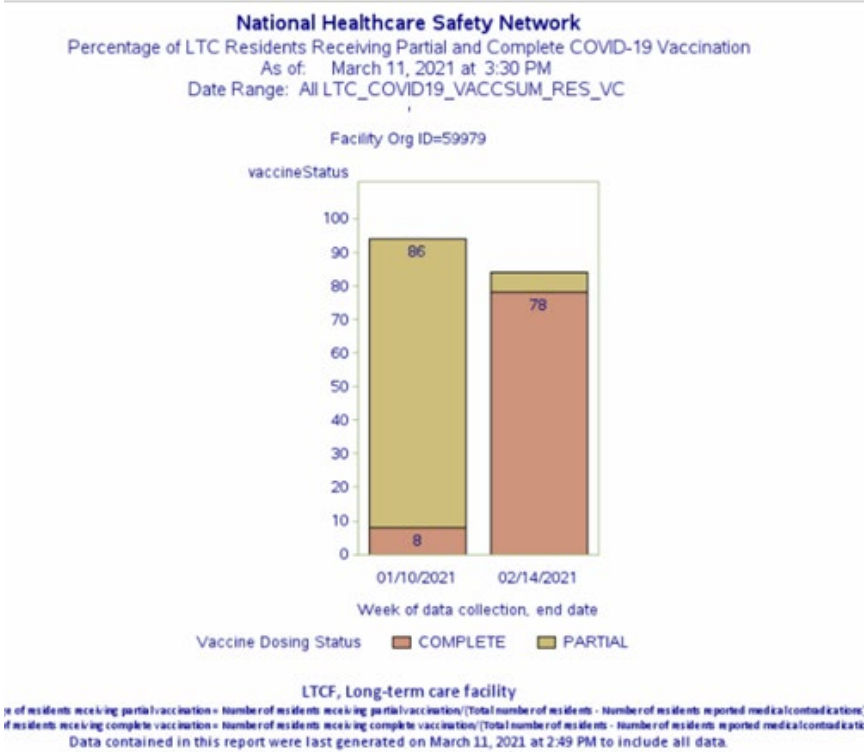
Vaccine math made easy (thanks to NHSN)

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

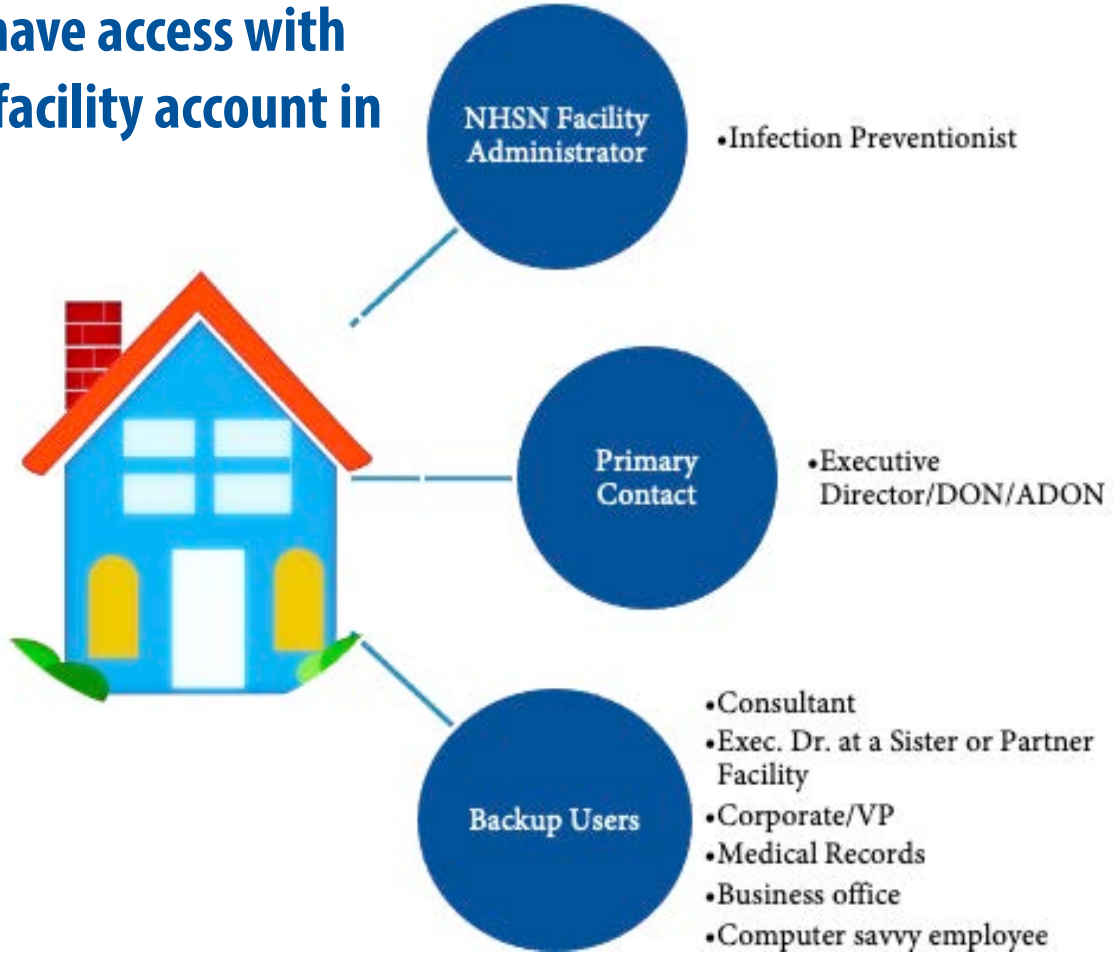
https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/ltc/weekly-covid-vac/index.html
https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#vaccinations
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html
https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/pdfs/ltc/covidvax/weekly-covid-reporting-508.pdf
https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7005e2.htm?s_cid=mm7005e2_x

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.

https://www.alliantquality.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/ShopTalk-NHSN-Updates-and-Technical-Assistance12SOW-AHSQIN-QIO-TO1NH-20-411-_-508-.pdf

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

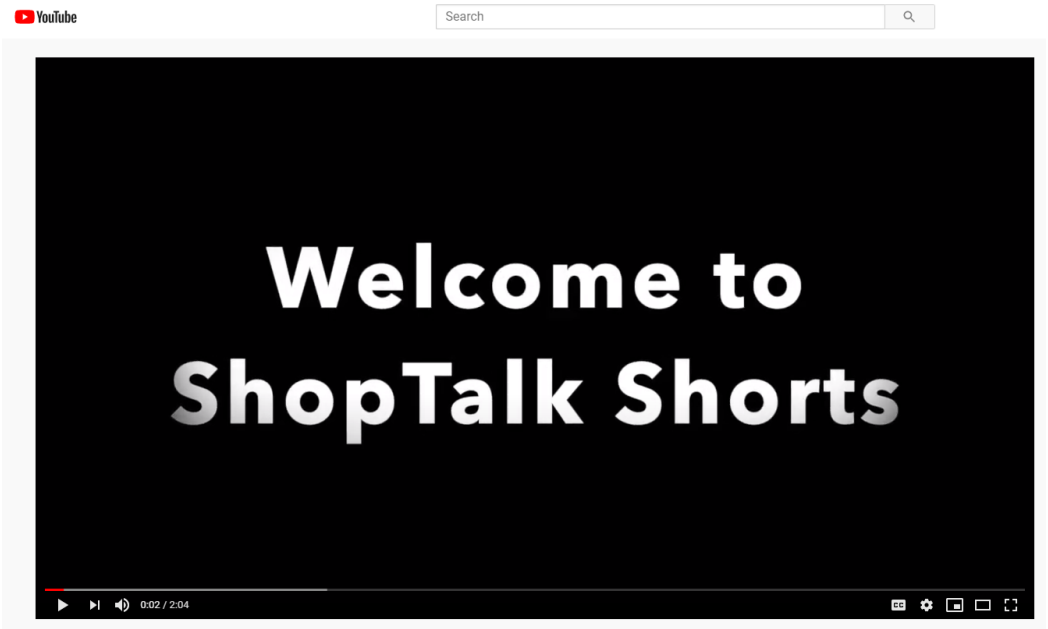
Does the facility report this as a positive test in the staff and personnel impact pathway? No

Would you go into Outbreak Testing? No

Do you report in the POCT module? Yes

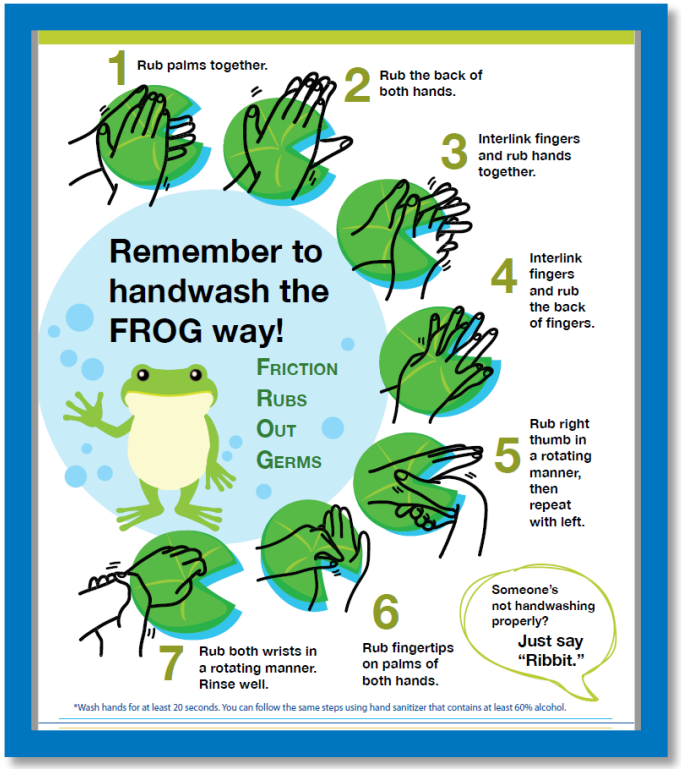
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-risk-assesment-hcp.html
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/long-term-care.html

Shop Talk Shorts YouTube Channel



https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLXWmxni-xNHspWHhLlIrqcLGlzXZPljlF

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

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