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 right-hand side of your screen

We will get started shortly!
NHSN COVID-19 Data Submission Updates

September 16, 2021

Presented By:
Marilee Johnson, MBA, MT (ASCP)
Infection Prevention Technical Advisor
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.

Contact: 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 and assisting them in reducing healthcare associated infections across the continuum of care.

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

Contact: Amy.Ward@AlliantHealth.org
Objectives

At the end of this session, the participant will be able to:

• Review the new CDC guidance for Nursing Homes
• Submit COVID-19 vaccine data for staff and residents into NHSN accurately & timely.
• Review your facility NHSN data on Data.cms.gov
• Review the CMS requirements and timeline for submitting data into NHSN.
• Join the Alliant Quality NHSN Data group.
COVID-19 New Cases General Population & Nursing Homes

State

Time Frame
- Before Vaccines
- After LTC Vaccine Clinics Began (12/19/20)

New Case Trends: General Population & Nursing Homes Residents (7-day)
- General Population - Red Line
- Nursing Home Residents - Blue Line

Data Through: Nursing Home - Aug 22, 2021 (Latest week's data is preliminary). Community - Sep 1, 2021
Sources: NHSN and Johns Hopkins University

https://www.ahcancal.org/Data-and-Research/Pages/default.aspx
Weekly Resident COVID-19 Confirmed Cases and Deaths

Week ending 08/29/2021
Residents Weekly Confirmed COVID-19
4,702 cases
Residents Weekly COVID-19 Deaths
452 deaths
Weekly Staff COVID-19 Confirmed Cases and Deaths

Week ending 08/29/2021

Staff Weekly Confirmed COVID-19

6,547 cases

Staff Weekly COVID-19 Deaths

26 deaths
By the NHSN Numbers, % Fully Vaccinated

- **83.9%** of residents per facility in the US.
- **62.7%** of staff per facility in the US.

- Do you know your facility’s rate?

Vaccination Rate of Nursing Home Staff by State

Percent of Current Staff (Healthcare Personnel) with Completed COVID-19 Vaccinations per Facility

Note: This shows the average percentage among facilities who have reported vaccination data in the current or prior week.

NC  57%
AL  54%
GA  54%
TN  51%
KY  53%
FL  49%
LA  48%
Changes in CDC Guidelines 9/10/21

1. Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations to Prevent SARS-CoV-2 Spread in Nursing Homes

2. Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic

3. Infection Control: Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) | CDC
Interim Guidance for Managing HCP with SARS-CoV-2 Infection or Exposure 9-10-21

• Combine information from previously posted CDC guidance addressing when healthcare personnel (HCP) with SARS-CoV-2 infection could return to work and risk assessment and work restriction for HCP with higher-risk exposure to SARS-CoV-2
• Clarify the recommended intervals for testing asymptomatic HCP with a higher-risk exposure.
Asymptomatic with Higher Risk Exposure

Asymptomatic HCP with a higher-risk exposure and patients with close contact with someone with SARS-CoV-2 infection, regardless of vaccination status, should have a series of two viral tests for SARS-CoV-2 infection. In these situations, testing is recommended immediately (but not earlier than 2 days after the exposure) and, if negative, again 5–7 days after the exposure. However, testing is not recommended for people who have had SARS-CoV-2 infection in the last 90 days if they remain asymptomatic; this is because some people may have detectable virus from their prior infection during this period (additional information is available here). Criteria for use of post-exposure prophylaxis are described elsewhere.

Please reach out to your State Department of Public Health HAI Coordinator for Guidance changes.

Search here for contact info:
https://www.cdc.gov/hai/state-based/index.html
Summary of Changes for All HCP 9-10-21

• CDC continues to recommend having a process to identify healthcare personnel, patients, and visitors with symptoms or exposure to SARS-CoV-2 prior to entering a facility.
• CDC continues to recommend source control for everyone in a healthcare setting, and has clarified recommendations for healthcare personnel, patients, and visitors, to better align with community guidance. This includes a few limited circumstances where fully vaccinated individuals in counties with low to moderate community transmission could choose not to wear source control.
• There are no changes to the PPE recommended for the care of patients with suspected or confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection.
• Quarantine is no longer recommended for fully vaccinated patients with exposure to SARS-CoV-2 or those patients who have had SARS-CoV-2 infection in the prior 90 days.
• The timing of SARS-CoV-2 testing after higher-risk exposure for healthcare personnel and close contact for patients has been clarified.

• Screening testing for healthcare personnel in nursing homes is now associated with community transmission level instead of test positivity.
• During an outbreak response in nursing homes, options for more targeted contact tracing have been added.
• In general, assisted living communities should follow the guidance for Retirement Communities and Independent Living | CDC. However, in circumstances when healthcare is being delivered (e.g., by home health agency, staff providing care for a resident with SARS-CoV-2 infection), assisted living communities should follow the IPC recommendations in this guidance.

Long Term Care Infection Prevention Changes 9-10-21

Read the Infection Prevention & Control Program
  – Risk Assessment
  – Online Training course  Just do it!

New Guidance for Staff Point of Care Testing
  – Community Transmission REPLACED Positivity rate

**COVID-19 Testing**
Please see the Testing Requirements memorandum and the CDC COVID Data Tracker to find your county’s level of community transmission for testing nursing home staff. Please see additional instructions for Finding Community Transmission Levels using the CDC COVID Data Tracker.
Routine Testing of Staff for COVID-19 (POCT)

*Ditch the positivity rate and **USE** the Facility’s County Level of COVID-19 Transmission

For Routine Testing of Staff for COVID-19

Example: Facility’s in Wake County, NC will test twice a week because the level of community transmission is HIGH.

https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view INSTRUCTIONS
Monitor level of community transmission every other week (first & third Monday of the month)

- If the community transmission goes up, immediately change testing frequency to higher
- If the community transmission goes down, wait for 2 weeks before reducing testing frequency

Vaccinated staff do NOT need to be routinely tested.

***Please READ the new QSO-20-38.
Who is Eligible For the COVID-19 Booster?

As of 9/10/21:

Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines Currently Approved or Authorized in the United States

Answer - Moderately to severely immunocompromised people after they completed an initial 2-dose mRNA vaccine series.

Disclaimer: You do not need to ask HCP whether they are eligible for booster. Submit zeros unless HCP voluntary share updated vaccine card.

Press release:
Let’s Talk About NHSN & The Booster
New NHSN Vaccine Questions-8/23/21

*Check Main Website weekly: [https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/ltc/weekly-covid-vac/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/ltc/weekly-covid-vac/index.html) Table of Instructions for resident and HCP has been updated. Tracking sheets have not as of 9/2/21.

Let’s Review the HCP Vaccine Denominator

(the total eligible to get vaccinated at your facility)

Disclaimer: *If you have specific questions, please email* nhsn@cdc.gov *with the subject line, “Weekly COVID-19 Vaccination”*
Calculate the denominator for HCP Vaccination rate (number of HCP eligible to work)

• All HCP definition: *HCP who are eligible to have worked include employees, contractors, or students, trainees, and volunteers who are scheduled to work in the facility at least one day every week.*

• [https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/forms/instr/57.219-toi-508.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/forms/instr/57.219-toi-508.pdf)

• Lets take a quiz
Who are HCP Considered “Eligible to Work?”

- Milkman who delivers milk to dining room every Thursday? **YES**
- An EMS worker who transports residents to dialysis. **YES**
Who are HCP Considered “Eligible to Work?”

- PRN nurse who works once a month - NO
- Agency staff who are contracted but not scheduled to work - NO
- Pharmacists, dietitians, therapists, and mental health staff who come occasionally - NO

Table:

| 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 |

Total:

???
Need Assistance with NHSN Reporting?

Join Our NHSN Data Group So We Can Help You!
Group Name: Alliant Quality-LTC
Group ID: 83378
Joining Password: Alliant20!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nCmh6oRJhoE&list=PLXWmxni-xNHspWHhLiIrqcLGlzXZPljI&index=1
How do you know if your facility is reporting COVID-19 data into NHSN on time and complete?

CASPER

NHSN Summary Data

https://web.qiesnet.org/qiesmds/mds_home.html

Best Practice
Create a Check-off Sheet That Works for YOU!

NEW! County Level of Community Transmission

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<th>NHSN Pathways (4)</th>
<th>Vaccination Rate Coverage</th>
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High ≠ Substantial ≠ Moderate ≠ Low ≠ No Data
Verify the NHSN Data Reported to CMS Each Week


Scroll down to...

Listing of vaccination rates for individual nursing homes: Click to see a list of every nursing home with recent resident and staff vaccination rates. There’s also a separate tab for nursing homes with a staff vaccination rate of 75% or more.

Recent Facility Resident and Staff Vaccination Rates, as reported for week ending 08/01/21
Recent in the title refers to the current week rate if present, otherwise the prior week rate if present

Your rate should NOT be <25% and certainly NEVER 0%
If it is, review & edit your NHSN data ASAP
### Recent Facility Resident and Staff Vaccination Rates and Other Data, as reported for week ending 08/29/21

Vaccination percentages are for the current week if present, otherwise the prior week if present.

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COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance the Facts

Follow the science:

• Go to the FDA website for updates on the booster, additional COVID vaccine doses, and timeline
• Attend the FDA meeting on Sept 17, 2021 | 8:30 a.m. EST

Important Links Recap


7-2021 FAQ:  https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/hps/weekly-covid-vac/faqs.html


All CMS Regulatory Updates can be found here:  https://www.cms.gov/About-CMS/Agency-Information/Emergency/EPRO/Current-Emergencies/Current-Emergencies-page

Required NHSN Reporting Pathways

Weekly & within 7 days of prior submission

A. Surveillance Reporting Pathways
   1. Staff and Personnel Impact
   2. Resident Impact
   3. Supplies & PPE
   4. COVID-19 Therapeutics

B. COVID-19 Vaccine Module
   1. Healthcare Personnel
   2. Residents

*C. COVID-19 POC Test Reporting Tool – All Positive & Negative COVID-19 lab results for Residents & Staff must be reported within 24 hours. NHSN (optional but strongly encouraged) or Directly to State Health Dept

Journal Articles

- Effectiveness of COVID-19 Vaccines in Preventing SARS-CoV-2 Infection Among Frontline Workers Before and During B.1.617.2 (Delta) Variant Predominance — Eight U.S. Locations, December 2020–August 2021 | MMWR (cdc.gov)

- mm7034e5 SARS-CoV-2 Infections and Hospitalizations Among Persons Aged ≥16 Years, by Vaccination Status — Los Angeles County, California, May 1–July 25, 2021 (cdc.gov)

- Interim Estimates of COVID-19 Vaccine Effectiveness Against COVID-19–Associated Emergency Department or Urgent Care Clinic Encounters and Hospitalizations Among Adults During SARS-CoV-2 B.1.617.2 (Delta) Variant Predominance — Nine States, June–August 2021

Bookmark this page for CDC updates:
All What’s New & Updated:
New to LTCF Infection Prevention & NHSN?

Bookmark these pages:

- Contact marilee.johnson@allianthealth.org to make sure you are on the Alliant Quality mailing list.
- CMS mandates for reporting into NHSN
- NHSN Website: [https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/index.html)
- LTCF COVID-19 Module: [https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/ltc/covid19/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/ltc/covid19/index.html)
- Point of Care Testing Reporting Tool FAQs:
- Need Access to NHSN? Contact the current NHSN administrator at your facility to add you as a user. If no one has administrative access at your facility [Review These Shop Talk Shorts](https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/facadmin/index.html) for FAQs and submit this form: [https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/facadmin/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/facadmin/index.html) Follow email prompts to complete SAMS application.
Have You Registered for NHSN Updates?

https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/ltc/covid19/index.html
Help! I am new & no one has NHSN access
How do I find out who has access to my facility?
How do I add users and rights to our NHSN account?
My administrator added me as a user, but I can't login.
I got a new job. Can I use my grid card to access my new facility?
How do I change my email address for NHSN & SAMS?
How do I get a SAMS card? I already have access to my facility.
I am leaving, how do I reassign another NHSN facility administrator?
I want to receive technical assistance. How do I join Alliant Quality’s NHSN Data Group?

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLXWmxni-xNHspWHhL1lrqclGlzXZPljlF
COVID-19 Vaccine Reporting Training Slides

• Review the NHSN [Website](#) Often for Updates

Shop Talk Webinars:
• **April 2021** [VIDEO Recording](#) | [Slides](#)
• **May 2021** [VIDEO Recording](#) | [Slides](#)
• **June 2021** [VIDEO Recording](#) | [Slides](#)
• **July 2021** [VIDEO Recording](#) | [Slides](#)
• **August 2021** [VIDEO Recording](#) | [Slides](#)
POCT & Resident Pathway Module Update Training -

Changes will be released on September 18th

Reference changes here: NHSN LTCF COVID-19 Module website

Please Join us for a Review of LTCF COVID-19 Module: Resident Impact and Facility Capacity Pathway Updates

Topic: LTCF COVID-19 Module: Resident Impact and Facility Capacity Pathway Updates
Date: Monday, Sep 20, 2021
Time: 1:00 – 2:00 PM ET

Register in advance for this webinar:
https://cdc.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_LVIK4Kt-Q5O-T2v2J6QydQ
New NHSN Training

**Topic:** 2021 Changes to the Weekly NHSN COVID-19 Vaccination Data Collection Forms for Long-Term Care Facilities

**Date:** Sep 23, 2021

**Time:** 2:00 – 3:00 PM EST

Register in advance for this webinar:

Mark Your Calendar!

Shop Talk 3rd Thursdays at 2pm ET

Registration Links:

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

Please put your questions into the Q&A.
Thank You for Your Time!

Contact the Patient Safety Team

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