

Resident and Family Council
The Importance of Vaccines for Older Adults



QIN-QIO
 Quality Innovation Network -
 Quality Improvement Organizations
CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES
 QUALITY IMPROVEMENT & INNOVATION GROUP

PROGRAM PRESENTER GUIDE

SLIDE #	NOTES FOR PRESENTER
1	This presentation can be modified to include your facility logo, presenter name and title.
2	Let's start our time together today by talking about some of our favorite traditions or customs from our cultures. One of mine is _____. Does anyone else enjoy _____ or want to share one of your favorites? (Allow time for sharing. Some of these activities will likely involve social gatherings or being with family or friends.) Our wellness goal for this season is to stay well and gather to do the things that matter most to us.
3	This can be a second option for an icebreaker.
4	Customize with your facility vaccination rates and wellness goal for vaccination. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our wellness goal is 100% vaccination for vaccines your physician recommends. For most of us, that includes COVID-19, flu, pneumococcal and RSV vaccines. • As of today, our vaccination rates are: _____
5	Facilitate a brief discussion of common health challenges older adults face, such as those common to aging, having one or more health challenges, and other factors like the lifestyle choices we make or environmental challenges in your community.
6	Getting vaccinated can knock down many hurdles to wellness. There are many reasons to consider getting a vaccine. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Getting vaccinated reduces our chances of passing the virus on to the people we visit with, roommates or visitors. Remember, you can spread the virus even if you don't feel sick.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Getting the vaccine can help reduce the risk of hospitalization for you or your family members if they become infected. • If infected, you and your family members may feel less sick, and symptoms may not be as bad. • We want to keep staff well so they can come to work and care for you or your family member.
7	<p>Good news this season—there are more ways than ever to help keep us well. For the first time ever, we have vaccines for all three major respiratory illnesses and an updated vaccine that can help prevent one type of pneumonia. Less illness means fewer times that visitors must put off visiting to avoid spreading any contagious illness to our residents and staff.</p>
8	<p>Flu is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses that infect the nose, throat, and sometimes the lungs. It can cause mild to severe illness and, at times, can lead to hospitalization and even death. The best way to prevent flu is by getting a flu vaccine each year. The flu vaccine has been shown to reduce flu-related illnesses and the risk of serious flu complications that can result in hospitalization or even death. Influenza hospitalizations were cut in half for those 65+ years of age who were vaccinated. Vaccinating long-term care facility (LTCF) staff reduces hospitalizations and deaths in LTCF residents.</p>
9	<p>A lot has changed with new vaccines and all the different variant names. But what hasn't changed is that COVID-19 is still here, contagious, and people are still dying from it. COVID-19 vaccines are our best protection. And you will hear me say this a lot—encourage your family, friends, and visitors to get vaccinated, too. It helps protect you, the people you care about, and our staff, who need to stay well to take care of you.</p>
10	<p>RSV is a short term that refers to a virus called respiratory syncytial virus, which is especially dangerous for very young children and older adults. RSV can start off looking a lot like a regular cold. Symptoms can start with a runny nose or cough. This is one reason we ask visitors to postpone visiting when they have cold symptoms. It could be the start of something worse. like COVID-19 or RSV. We used to hear about RSV mostly for infants, but now we know from more testing that older adults are getting very sick with RSV, too. The new RSV vaccine is especially important for those of us, or our roommates, who have very young grandchildren who could become dangerously sick if they caught RSV from us while visiting.</p>

11	Unlike the flu or COVID-19 vaccines, you don't have to get a yearly pneumonia vaccine. Depending on when or if you got your first pneumonia vaccine, you may need one or two shots. Your doctor will tell you what you need. Adults 65 years or older with chronic health conditions have an increased risk for this type of pneumonia, which is estimated to cause more than 100,000 adults to be hospitalized each year.
12	Many of the symptoms of respiratory illnesses are similar, and it can be hard to know what we are sick with. We have a flyer we encourage you to share with your family and friends to help everyone remember when to see a doctor.
13	As a reminder, please follow the guidance posted by our entrances for postponing visits when you have symptoms.
14	No notes.
15	Share your favorite media channels with meeting participants and encourage them to follow Alliant Healthcare Solutions on social media. Use the links in the PowerPoint slide as a trusted source for immunization and other health care information.