

COVID-19 Question and Answer Session for Long-Term Care and Congregate Residential Settings

May 21st , 2021

The findings and conclusions in this presentation are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Illinois Department of Public Health

Housekeeping

- All attendees in listen-only mode
- Submit questions via Q&A pod to All Panelists
- Slides and recording will be made available later



Agenda

- Upcoming Webinars
- Telligen Resources & Webinar
- Testing Requirements
- Review of LTC COVID Guidance
- Answers to Frequently Asked Questions
- Open Q & A

Slides and recording will be made available after the session.



IDPH webinars

Upcoming Friday Brief Updates and Open Q&A

June Webinar Dates TBA 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

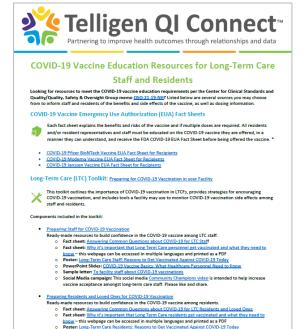
Previously recorded webinars can be viewed on the IDPH Portal

Slides and recordings will be made available after the sessions.



Contact Telligen : Nursinghome@telligen.com

COVID-19 Vaccine Education Resources for Staff and Residents



Sample letter: To residents about COVID-19 vaccination

* See page 3 of memo QSO-21-19-NH

NHSN Support

- COVID-19 vaccine and therapeutics **》** treatment reporting information
- NHSN Access/Conferring Rights **>>**

Telligen Event: Weds, June 2nd, 2:30pm

Navigating the New COVID-19 Immunization Requirements and NHSN Vaccination Reporting

https://telligen.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAkf-CurzkrGNCeV61X4wYqqSZmceTBHjU5





Long Term Care Guidance for COVID-19

Testing Requirements

- Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status, should receive a viral test immediately.
- Asymptomatic HCP with a higher-risk exposure and patients or residents with prolonged 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 and 5–7 days after exposure.
- In healthcare facilities with an outbreak of SARS-CoV-2, recommendations for viral testing HCP, residents, and patients (regardless of vaccination status) remain unchanged.
- In nursing homes with an outbreak of SARS-CoV-2, HCP and residents, regardless of vaccination status, should have a viral test every 3-7 days until no new cases are identified for 14 days.
- Fully vaccinated HCP may be exempt from expanded screening testing. However, per recommendations above, vaccinated HCP should have a viral test if the HCP is symptomatic, has a higher-risk exposure or is working in a facility experiencing an outbreak.
- In nursing homes, unvaccinated HCP should continue expanded screening testing as previously recommended.



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

Long-term Care Testing Quick Reference Guide May 21, 2021									
Scenario	Who	Vaccinated Resident	Unvaccinated Resident	Vaccinated Staff	Unvaccinated Staff				
Outbreak: First round of facility-wide testing when	Required to test	YES	YES	YES	YES				
a new case is identified n a resident or staff unless within 90 days of COVID infection.	How often	Initial test	Initial test	Initial test	Initial test				
Outbreak: Testing fac- wide previous negative every 3-7 days (2X/week)	Required to test	YES	YES	YES	YES				
until there are no more positive cases for 14 days since last positive	How often	Every 3-7 days	Every 3-7 days	Every 3-7 days	Every 3-7 days				
After 14 days without new case.	Required to test	NO	NO	NO	YES				
Routine testing based on county test positivity often rates		Routine testing is not required in vaccinated residents. Follow LHD guidance if more stringent testing is required.	Routine testing is not required in unvaccinated residents. Follow LHD guidance if more stringent testing is required.	Routine testing is not required in vaccinated staff.	Routine testing is required in unvaccinated staff. Based upon county test positivity rates: 1X month if <5% 1X per week if <u>></u> 5% 2X per week if > 10%				
Higher risk exposure/prolonged	Required to test	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes				
contact with positive case	How often	Immediately and again in 5-7 days after exposure	Immediately and again in 5-7 days after exposure	Immediately and again in 5-7 days after exposure	Immediately and again in 5-7 days after exposure				
Symptomatic	Required to test	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes				
	How often	Immediately	Immediately	Immediately	Immediately				

Cheat Sheet!

CMS County Test Positivity Rates

1. Go to CMS.gov with link below.

Data.CMS.gov

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Submitted Data as of Week Ending: 05/09/2021

The Nursing Home COVID-19 Public File Includes data reported by nursing homes to the CDC's National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) system COVID-19 Long Torn Care Facility Module, including Resident Impact, Facility Capacity, Suff S Personnel, and supplies & Personal Protective Lapprenel, and Ventilator Capacity and supplies Table Hearins

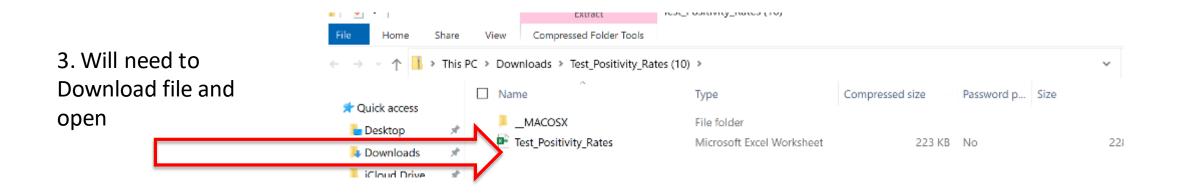
For a list of Frequently Asked Questions, please click here.

For a full list of variables included in this Public Use File (PUF) and their descriptions, please see the data dictionary. The file

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

2. Scroll down to middle	COVID-19 Testing
of page under "COVID-19 Testing". Click "here".	As part of CMS' commitment to protecting nursing home residents, and to boost the surveillance of COVID-19, nursing homes are now required to conduct testing of residents and staff. More information about these requirements and guidelines can be
	found <u>here</u> . These guidelines include testing staff on a certain frequency based on the COVID-19 positivity rate for the county
	the nursing home resides in. Rates of county positivity are posted <u>here</u> . (Archive is <u>here</u> .) Facilities should monitor these rates
	every other week and adjust staff testing accordingly.



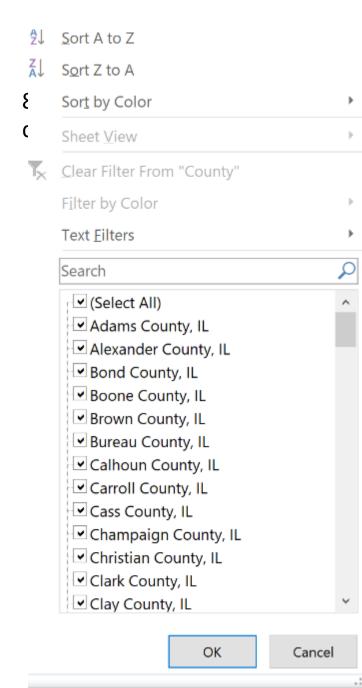
4. Open file and click enable

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	PROTECTED VIEW Be careful—files from the Internet	can contain	n viruses.	Unless you	u need to edit,	it's safer to stay in Protec	ted View. Er	able Editing	1				
A.	1 → 1 × √ <i>f</i> x COVID-19 V	(iral (RT-P	CB) Labo	oratory 1	4-Day Test Po	sitivity Rates, by US C	unty						
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1	COVID-19 Viral (RT-PCR) Laboratory 14-Day Test	Positivity	Rates, I	by US Cou	unty								
2	Test Positivity Classification:	Counties	s with te	st percen	nt positivity <	5.0% or with <20 tests	in past 14 days:	Green; tes	t percent positivity ≥5	.0% to ≤10.0% or with <500) tests and	<2000 te	ests/100
3	Percent Positive and Tests in prior 14 days:	Data from	m April 3	28-May 1	1								
4	Data Sources:	Testing d	data: HH	IS Unified	Testing Data	set; Population data: 2	2019 Census						
5	Documentation:	The data	present	ted repre	sent viral CO	/ID-19 laboratory diag	nostic and scree	ening test (reverse transcription	polymerase chain reaction,	RT-PCR) r	esults and	d exclud
6	Note:	During th	he week	of Sept 1	14, 2020, the f	ollowing updates wer	e made to the o	ounty perc	ent test positivity char	acterization methodology.	In order to	o use a gr	eater ar
	County	FIPS	Ctata	FEMA	Population	NCHS Urban Rural	Tests in prior	14-day	Percent Positivity in	Test Positivity			
7	County	FIPS	state	Region	Population	Classification	14 days	test rate	prior 14 days	Classification - 14 days			
в	Aleutians East Borough, AK	2013	AK	10	3,337	Non-core	284	8,511	0.4%	Green			
	Aleutians West Census Area, AK	2016	AK	10	5 634	Non-core	184	3 266	0.0%	Green			

	COVID-19 Viral (RT-PCR) Laboratory 14-Day Test I	Positivity	Rates, b			
5. Click on banner	Test Positivity Classification:	Counties	Counties with tes			
county, state, test positivity headers	Percent Positive and Tests in prior 14 days:	Data fro	m April 2 ^t Sort A to Z Il Sort Z to A			
6. Go to far right 🔄	Data Sources:	Testing data: HH The data present The data present During the week To sea greater amou				
and click on sort 8	Documentation:					
filter. Click Filter.	Note:					
	County	FIPS	State			
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	Aleutians West Census Area, AK	2016	AK			
)	Anchorage Municipality, AK	2020	AK			
1	Bethel Census Area, AK	2050	AK			
			ILLINOIS DEPARIMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH			

COVID-19 Viral (RT-PCR) Laboratory 14-Day Te	st Positivi	ty Rates,	by US Co	unty						
Test Positivity Classification:	Count	ies with te	est percer	t positivity <5	.0% or with <20 tests	in past 14 days:	Green; tes	t percent positivity ≥5	.0% to ≤10.0% or with <500	tests and <2000 tests/
Percent Positive and Tests in prior 14 days:	Data f	rom April	28-May 1	1						
Data Sources:	Testin	g data: HI	HS Unified	Testing Datas	set; Population data: 2	2019 Census				
Documentation:	The da	ta preser	ted repre	sent viral COV	ID-19 laboratory diag	nostic and scree	ening test (reverse transcription	oolymerase chain reaction, F	RT-PCR) results and exc
Note:									acterization methodology. In	
	10000	and the second	FEMA					Percent Positivity in		
County	+ FIPS	- State	Regic -	Population	Classification -	14 days -			Classification - 14 day -	
Adams County, IL	1700	Sector Se	5	65,435	Micropolitan	5,061	7,734	1.6%	Green	
Alexander County, IL	1700	3 IL	5	5,761	Small metro	120	2,083	1.7%	Green	
Bond County, IL	1700	05 IL	5	16,426	Large fringe metro	1,247	7,592	1.2%	Green	
Boone County, IL	1700	07 IL	5	53,544	Medium metro	2,592	4,841	5.4%	Yellow	
Brown County, IL	1700	9 IL	5	6,578	Non-core	920	13,986	0.9%	Green	
Bureau County, IL	1701	1 IL	5	32,628	Micropolitan	1,152	3,531	4.3%	Green	
Calhoun County, IL	1701	I3 IL	5	4,739	Large fringe metro	67	1,414	0.0%	Green	
Carroll County, IL	1701	IS IL	5	14,305	Non-core	391	2,733	3.3%	Green	
Cass County, IL	1701	17 IL	5	12,147	Non-core	499	4,108	1.8%	Green	
Champaign County, IL	1701	19 IL	5	209,689	Small metro	105,480	50,303	0.5%	Green	
Christian County, IL	1702	21 IL	5	32,304	Micropolitan	1,482	4,588	1.6%	Green	
Clark County, IL	1702	23 IL	5	15,441	Non-core	456	2,953	3.7%	Green	
Clay County, IL	1702	25 IL	5	13,184	Non-core	491	3,724	0.6%	Green	
Clinton County, IL	1702	27 IL	5	37,562	Large fringe metro	1,238	3,296	1.3%	Green	
Coles County, IL	1702	29 IL	5	50,621	Micropolitan	2,067	4,083	3.0%	Green	
Cook County, IL	1703	31 IL	5	5,150,233	Large central metro	309,032	6,000	3.8%	Green	
Crawford County, IL	1703	33 IL	5	18,667	Non-core	1,094	5,861	0.8%	Green	
Cumberland County, IL	1703	85 IL	5	10,766	Micropolitan	295	2,740	1.4%	Green	
De Witt County, IL	1703	89 IL	5	15,638	Small metro	995	6,363	7.2%	Yellow	
DeKalb County, IL	1703	37 IL	5	104,897	Large fringe metro	3,427	3,267	5.6%	Yellow	
Douglas County II	170/	11.11	5	10 465	Non coro	603	2 009	2 (10/	Groop	





	6	Note:		During tl	ne week	0
_	7	County		FIPS	State	F
	708	Adams County, IL		17001	IL	
	709	Alexander County, IL		17003	IL	



1 COVID-19 Viral (RT-PCR) Laboratory 14-Day Test P	ositivity Rates, by US County
2 Test Positivity Classification:	Counties with test percent positivity 5.0% or with <20 tests in past 14 days: Green; test percent positivity ≥5.0% to ≤10.0% or with <500 tests and <2000 tests/100k
3 Percent Positive and Tests in prior 14 days	Data from April 28-May 11
4 Data Sources:	Testing data: HHS Unified Testing Dataset; Population data: 2019 Census
5 Documentation:	The data presented represent viral COVID-19 laboratory diagnostic and screening test (reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction, RT-PCR) results and exclude
6 Note:	During the week of Sept 14, 2020, the following updates were made to the county percent test positivity characterization methodology. In order to use a greater amc
County	FIPS State FEMA Population NCHS Urban Rural Tests in prior 14-day Percent Positivity in Test Positivity
7 county	The star Region
17 Champaign County, IL	17019 IL 5 209,689 Small metro 105,480 50,303 0.5% Green
243	



Higher Risk Exposure

Interim U.S. Guidance for Risk Assessment and Work Restrictions for Healthcare Personnel with Potential Exposure to SARS-CoV-2

Updated Mar. 11, 2021 Print

"The operational definition of "prolonged" refers to a cumulative time period of 15 or more minutes during a 24-hour period, which aligns with the time period used in the guidance for community exposures and contact tracing

For the purposes of this guidance, any duration should be considered prolonged if the exposure occurs during performance of an aerosol generating procedure.1

Clarified that asymptomatic HCP who are fully vaccinated and have a higher-risk exposure as described in this guidance do not need to be restricted from work."

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



Communal Dining Guidance

Residents who participate in communal dining:

- Fully vaccinated residents can participate in communal dining without use of source control or physical distancing
- If unvaccinated residents are present in the dining area all residents should use source control when not eating and unvaccinated residents should continue to remain at least 6 feet from others
- If unvaccinated HCP are present in the dining are all residents should use source control when not eating and unvaccinated residents should continue to remain at least 6 feet from others

Residents who should NOT participate in communal dining:

- Vaccinated and unvaccinated residents
 - ✓ with an active SARS-CoV-2 infection, or
 - ✓ who are in isolation because of suspected COVID-19 or
 - ✓ residents in quarantine



Group Activity Guidance

Residents who participate in group activities:

- Fully vaccinated residents can participate in group activities without use of source control or physical distancing
- If unvaccinated residents are present in the activity room/area then all residents should use source control. Unvaccinated residents should continue to remain at least 6 feet from others
- If unvaccinated HCP are present in the activity room/area then all residents should use source control. Unvaccinated residents should continue to remain at least 6 feet from others

Residents who should NOT participate in group activities:

- Vaccinated and unvaccinated residents
 - ✓ with an active SARS-CoV-2 infection, or
 - ✓ who are in isolation because of suspected COVID-19 or
 - ✓ residents in quarantine



General Guidance

 If vaccination status cannot be determined, the safest practice is for all participants to follow all recommended infection prevention and control practices including maintaining physical distancing and wearing source control

 Residents should wear a cloth face mask or face covering to and from dining, group activities, or going outside (exit of building).



Healthcare Personnel

- In general, fully vaccinated HCP should continue to wear source control while at work.
- However, fully vaccinated HCP could dine and socialize together in break rooms and conduct in-person meetings without source control or physical distancing.
- If unvaccinated HCP are present, everyone should wear source control (unless eating or drinking) and unvaccinated HCP should physically distance from others.

PER CDC GUIDANCE



Newly identified positive case in resident or staff

One case is considered an outbreak. Staff must now wear an N95 respirator and eye protection on all units until no more positive case for 14 days.

Pause indoor and outdoor visitation, communal dining, and group activities on all units until the first round of testing is completed.

Complete facility-wide testing of residents and staff regardless of vaccination status (first round of testing). Test all previous negative residents and staff 3-7 days after the first round of testing and continue to test every 3-7 days until no new positives are identified for 14 days. Residents or staff wit in 90 days of active COVID-19 infection may be excluded from testing.

Evaluate whether the outbreak is contained to one unit (affected unit).

If contained to one unit, the remaining units (unaffected units) may resume indoor and outdoor visitation, communal dining, and group activities following guidance for vaccinated and unvaccinated persons.

Staff must continue to wear N95 respirators and eye protection on all units. Gowns and gloves are used per standard precautions when caring for all residents on the unaffected units.



Newly identified positive case in resident or staff

The affected unit must:

- a. Suspend indoor visitation until no new positives are identified for 14 days
- b. Residents with higher risk exposure to the positive case (another resident or staff) should be placed in quarantine and restricted to their room. Ideally, the resident should be in a single room.
- c. Residents with higher risk exposure may shelter in place or be moved to the observation or yellow zone and be placed in quarantine. Ideally, residents should be in a single room.
- d. Residents that did NOT have a higher risk exposure (unexposed) are allowed to participate in outdoor visits. Source control must be worn when walking through the building to get to the outdoors.
- e. Unexposed residents should not participate in communal dining and group activities in the main dining hall or activity center. However, unexposed residents on affected units with separate areas for dining and activities may participate in dining and activities on the unit following guidance for vaccinated and unvaccinated persons.
- f. Full PPE (N95 respirator, eye protection, gown, gloves) should be worn for residents in quarantine or those with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.
- g. Staff must continue to wear N95 respirators and eye protection. Gowns and gloves are used per standard precautions when caring for all residents on the affected units unless in isolation for another diagnosis.

If more than one unit is involved, then the facility must:

- a. Suspend all indoor visitations for the entire facility until there are no more positives for 14 days except those required by the disability rights law (end-of-life, compassionate care).
- b. Allow outdoor visits except for those in quarantine for high-risk exposures or a newly admitted unvaccinated person or in isolation for suspected or confirmed COVID-19.



Who Should Quarantine

- Unvaccinated new admissions or readmissions
- Symptomatic resident awaiting test results
- Vaccinated or unvaccinated residents following higher risk exposure (within 6 feet for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period) with someone with SARS-CoV-2 infection
- Unvaccinated residents who leave the facility may need to be quarantined based upon the risk assessment.
- Unvaccinated residents who leave the facility for 24 hours or longer should generally be managed as described in the New Admission and Readmission section.
- Roommates of residents with SARS-CoV-2 infection should be considered exposed and potentially infected and, if at all possible, should not share rooms with other residents while they are in quarantine (i.e., for the 14 days following the date their roommate was moved to the COVID-19 care unit).



Q: Can point of care tests be used for the first round of facilitywide testing?

A: Yes, point of care tests may be used. Point of care tests are an approved method of testing. While PCR tests remain the gold standard, POC are acceptable.



Q: Can you clarify how to go about testing if we find an additional positive case during facility-wide testing?

A:

- You completed the required first round of testing.
- You identified additional case(s).
- Continue to test all previously negative residents and staff regardless of vaccination status every 3 to 7 days (or twice a week) until you have gone 14 days without any more positive cases. Do not test those within 90 days post COVID infection.
- At that time, stop testing all residents (vaccinated and unvaccinated). Stop testing vaccinated staff.
- Continue to test unvaccinated staff according to county positivity rates and CMS testing frequency.



- Q: Clarify what is paused while we test?
- A: While you test:
 - Indoor and outdoor visits, communal dining, group activities, non-medical trips should be paused until the facility conducts it's first round of facility-wide testing. That should only take 1-3 days to test and get results.
- Based upon results, determine extent of outbreak.
 - If one unit is involved, it is called the affected unit. The affected unit should suspend indoor visits, but may allow outdoor visits, and on unit dining and group activities for those residents not in quarantine or isolation. All other units may resume indoor and outdoor visits, communal dining, group activities.
 - If multiple units are involved, the facility should suspend indoor visits, but may allow outdoor visits, on unit dining and group activities for those residents not in quarantine or isolation.
 - Compassionate care and end-of-life visits should continue at all times even if facility is in outbreak status. This is the LAW (disability rights law).



- Q: Can vaccinated and unvaccinated residents room together?
- A: Yes. There is no guidance stating vaccinated and unvaccinated can't room together.
- Q: Can I place a recovered COVID resident with an unvaccinated resident?
- A: Yes, as long as the resident is recovered and has been in isolation for the required time (at least 10 days) they may be placed with an unvaccinated resident.



Q: Do we still need to have a yellow zone?

A:

- A yellow zone was never a mandate. It made sense to create an observation unit where residents with unknown COVID status could reside. These residents were potentially exposed (roommates, etc.) or new admissions/readmissions.
- Early in the pandemic:
 - That process made it easier for staff.
 - You wore full PPE when caring for these residents.
 - A huge concern over mixing these residents with the general population and spreading the virus.
 - But a lot has changed since then: we now have vaccination, POC testing, better contact tracing, etc. ---able to shelter in place and conduct testing and make decisions faster than before.
 - You may shelter in place and keep residents in quarantine in the general population provided you have signage on the door for droplet/contact precautions, provide appropriate PPE, and ensure core IP measures such as hand hygiene are being followed consistently by all staff.
 - Staff caring for residents on quarantine may care for those residents in the general population if measures are followed appropriately.
- CDC does require you designate a COVID unit with dedicated staff.



A: Exposed resident should be placed into quarantine. The resident ideally should be in a single room. May shelter in place unless facility has a observation/yellow zone. If utilizing yellow zone, move the resident to the yellow zone. The resident should be restricted to their rooms, not participate in communal dining, group activities or indoor/outdoor visitation unless it is for compassionate/end-of-life situations. Staff should wear full PPE when caring for this resident (N95, eye protection, gown, gloves).

Per CDC:

Fully vaccinated inpatients and residents in healthcare settings should continue to quarantine following prolonged close contact (within 6 feet for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period) with someone with SARS-CoV-2 infection; outpatients should be cared for using recommended Transmission-Based Precautions.

Although not preferred, healthcare facilities could consider waiving quarantine for fully vaccinated patients and residents following prolonged close contact with someone with SARS-CoV-2 infection as a strategy to address critical issues (e.g., lack of space, staff, or PPE to safely care for exposed patients or residents) when other options are unsuccessful or unavailable. These decisions could be made in consultation with public health officials and infection control experts. Updated Healthcare Infection Prevention and Control

Recommendations in Response to COVID-19 Vaccination | CDC



Q: The new guidance says those with a high risk exposure need to have 2 tests post exposure. Are fully vaccinated staff still able to work if asymptomatic while waiting for test results?

A: Yes. Per CDC: "Fully vaccinated HCP with higher-risk exposures who are asymptomatic do not need to be restricted from work for 14 days following their exposure."

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infectioncontrol-after-vaccination.html#anchor_1619116602537-



Q: If residents can take off masks and not socially distance while dining and in activities with all vaccinated residents, can they sit in common areas of the building without masks and social distancing?

A: Outdoors would be preferred. They would need to be with other vaccinated residents and be able to discern if they should mask if an unvaccinated resident entered the common area. Which would mean they would always need to have a mask with them.



Q: Can we ask for proof of vaccination from visitors or take their word for it?

A:

You can ask if visitors are vaccinated.

You can't require them to prove vaccination status with a document/vaccination card.

Many may voluntarily show you proof.

Q: Can we create a list of vaccinated visitors if the visitor(s) voluntarily provided proof of vaccination as a reference for future visits?

A: How LTC facilities handle this information may need to be decided with their own counsel in reviewing the applicable laws, policies, and procedures, but this sounds reasonable.



• Q: Can vaccinated residents wear a color-coded ID bracelet to signify vaccination status? Or place stickers on HCP ID badges?

• A: How LTC facilities handle this information may need to be decided with their own counsel in reviewing the applicable laws, policies, and procedures.





Submit questions via Q&A pod to All Panelists

Please do not resubmit a single question multiple times

Slides and recording will be made available after the session.



Reminders

- SIREN Registration
 - To receive situational awareness from IDPH, please use this link to guide you to the correct registration instructions for your public health related classification: <u>http://www.dph.illinois.gov/siren</u>

- Project Firstline Learning Needs Assessment
 - English Version: https://redcap.link/firstlineLNA
 - Spanish Version: <u>https://redcap.link/LNAespanol</u>
- NHSN Assistance:
 - Contact Telligen: nursinghome@telligen.com

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