



We want to invite you to join the new AHRQ ECHO National Nursing Home COVID-19 Action Network.

The initiative is a collaboration between the federal Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), Project ECHO and the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) to advance improvements in COVID-19 preparedness, safety and infection control in nursing homes.

Our team at the Alzheimer's Association® is participating in the Network as an official training center for nursing homes. We will serve as a virtual community of practice for nursing home staff to engage with experts and their peers and share cases for real-time discussion and advice.

**Any Medicare or Medicaid-certified nursing home is eligible to participate at no cost.**

**Nursing homes that actively participate in the Network will receive \$6,000 in compensation in recognition of the staff time involved.** This reimbursement is available to those eligible to receive funding from the Provider Relief Fund and that have agreed to its terms and conditions. The vast majority of nursing homes are eligible.

**In addition, for Nursing Home Administrators, NAB-Approved CEUs are pending approval. For Nursing Professionals, CNEs are pending approval.**

Nursing homes that participate will be asked to:

- Participate in 60 to 90 minute weekly video conferences for 16 weeks.
- Use the opportunity to bring together up to 4 staff members to participate in the learning opportunity (a minimum of 2 staff should plan to attend each week). Staff can include, but are not limited to: Medical Directors, CNAs, LPN, RN, occupational/physical/speech/language therapist, social worker, pharmacist, administrator, etc.

**We have six options for your participation. Please complete the registration form for your preferred date by [clicking on this link](#).**

Group 1 runs weekly on **Tuesday, from 12:00 – 1:30 CDT, beginning on December 1<sup>st</sup>.**

Group 2 runs weekly on **Tuesday, from 1:00 – 2:30 CDT, beginning on December 1<sup>st</sup>.**

Group 3 runs weekly on **Wednesday, from 12:00-1:30 CDT, beginning December 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

Group 4 runs weekly on **Wednesday, from 1:00 – 2:30 CDT, beginning December 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

Group 5 runs weekly on **Thursday, from 12:00-1:30 CDT, beginning December 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

Group 6 runs weekly on **Thursday, from 1:00 – 2:30 CDT, beginning December 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

We know that nursing home staff and professionals are dedicated to providing high-quality, safe care for residents in their facilities. Nursing home staff members who care for our seniors are among the most

needed and most at-risk essential workers. Participating in the network provides nursing homes with practical information, skills and resources needed to protect both residents and staff from the virus.

Broadly, the Network aims to address the following goals:

- Keep the virus from entering nursing homes where it has not entered
- Identify residents and staff who have been infected with the virus early
- Prevent the spread of the virus between staff, residents and visitors
- Provide safe and appropriate care to residents with mild and asymptomatic cases
- Ensure staff have the knowledge, skills and confidence to implement best-practice safety measures to protect residents and themselves
- Reduce social isolation for residents, families, and staff during these difficult times

Network sessions will run for 16 weeks and use the ECHO model – an “all teach, all learn” methodology developed around case-based learning and active engagement. ECHO’s virtual guided practice approach has gained significant traction both nationally and globally as a core learning strategy for education and training in healthcare.

We have assembled an experienced team of experts to help facilitate this community of practice and support participating nursing homes in areas of safety and quality improvement (QI).

The curriculum, which will be updated weekly, covers a wide scope of topics related to COVID-19 response and preparedness, as well as QI methods to support ongoing testing and learning by staff.

We appreciate your deep commitment to protect your residents and staff, and we firmly believe that your participation in this initiative will support that mission-driven aim.

We have included a more detailed FAQ outlining the objectives of the Network with this communication.

**For more information or if you have questions, please contact Melanie Chavin, Chief Program Officer, Illinois Chapter or Doug Pace, Director of Mission Partnerships, at [dpace@alz.org](mailto:dpace@alz.org)**

We hope you will join us.