

Q&A Session for COVID-19 Updates and Q&A for long-term care and congregate residential settings

Session number: 24581994300
Date: Friday, September 16, 2022
Starting time: 12:30 PM

-Kristin Dolen (kdolen@marklund.org) - 12:55 PM

Q: Are a full set of daily vitals still required for COVID monitoring in ICF setting?

Priority: N/A-

-Deb Burdsall - 1:00 PM

A: ICF needs to do an assessment. We have suggested all along that blood pressure is probably not valuable unless it is needed for medication management. -

-Deb Burdsall - 1:04 PM

A: Or clinical signs and symptoms. -

-Karen Trimberger - 1:07 PM

A: • All residents, including new admissions, should be evaluated for possible COVID-19 infection at least daily. To clarify, the evaluation includes:

- o Screening for signs and symptoms of COVID-19
- o Actively monitoring temperature
- o Assessing respiratory status with pulse oximetry

If residents have a fever or symptoms consistent with COVID-19, increase the monitoring to every four hours. Include an assessment of symptoms, vital signs, oxygen saturation via pulse oximetry, and respiratory exam to identify-

-Nicole Koppenhoefer (nicolek@acrmorton.org) - 1:05 PM

Q: With this new guidance, can we designate "quarantine" rooms and cycle those not up to date through them with our current regulations?

Priority: N/A-

-Rachel Simon - 1:09 PM

A: This question has been answered verbally.-

-Nicole Garner (ngarner@eastbankcenter.com) - 1:05 PM

Q: We have not received a Siren update since March 2022, will there be one coming out if there are changes ?

Priority: N/A-

-Catherine Counard - 1:12 PM

A: Yes, as soon as the updated CDC/CMS guidance is released IDPH will align. Relevant CDC guidance was last updated in Jan/Feb 2022-

-Tony Madl (tony.madl@myfso.org) - 1:07 PM

Q: When will direct care staff be able to take the mask off? Direct care staff should mask when delivering care to COVID positive patients when isolated. We are losing staff to other jobs that don't require

masks and testing. Now IDPH is including turnover in the 5 star rating. SNF's are getting clobbered!
Priority: N/A-

-Julie Scholl (schollj@kreiderservices.org) - 1:07 PM
Q: "In ICFDDs are we still required to do annual training on COVID vaccines and infection control measures?
Priority: N/A-
-Rachel Simon - 1:11 PM
A: This question has been answered verbally.-

-Tony Madl (tony.madl@myfso.org) - 1:09 PM
Q: Testing requirements should be for those with symptoms. the expense of testing for SNF's is very high and becoming unbearable.
Priority: N/A-

-ARIANNE BRUNING (abruning@thegrovefoxvalley.com) - 1:10 PM
Q: Is there a way to turn up microphone? difficult to hear.
Priority: N/A-
-Tom Roome - 1:33 PM
A: Hi Arianne! Unfortunately, we're unable to make such changes. When I've encountered similar problems, its often resolved by turning up the volume on my device. I hope that helps -

-Diana Jones (diana@thepointes.biz) - 1:10 PM
Q: I believe this came up last week, but are facilities required during an outbreak to have all staff wear N95s? Needed clarification.
Priority: N/A-
-Tom Roome - 1:12 PM
A: Hi Diana, no we don't require all staff to wear an N95 when a facility is in outbreak. N95s are required based on the care activities being provided, or the patient being treated (i.e. such as having confirmed or suspected COVID-19)-

-Karla Stiritz (kstiritz@edenvillage.org) - 1:10 PM
Q: Very few of our people are considered up to date now. We only have 2 that are up to date, how are they suppose to do activities and dine. They really need to be close to each other it makes a difference in their appetite and moods
Priority: N/A-

-Nancy schwartz (nschwartz@hephzibahhome.org) - 1:10 PM
Q: What is DCFS doing with thier residential settings as far as this new regulations
Priority: N/A-

-Donna Malone (donna@proctorplace.org) - 1:11 PM

Q: As a licensed skilled home that's not CMS certified are we now supposed to test our employees based on who is or is not fully vaccinated or up to date?

Priority: N/A-

-Rachel Simon - 1:14 PM

A: This question has been answered verbally.-

-Rachel Damalerio (ma.damalerio@ascension.org) - 1:11 PM

Q: Do we need to have a separate unit for new admissions that are not up to date

Priority: N/A-

-Jocelyn Rosales (jocelyn.rosales@arborcompany.com) - 1:11 PM

Q: is there an actual guidance for testing with the new definition of up to date by CDC?

Priority: N/A-

-Maksymilian Paw (maksymilian.paw@ascension.org) - 1:11 PM

Q: So under the current guidance, if someone has had Their initial Vaccine + 2 boosters but not the new bivalent booster, Do they need to be quarantined on admission? And for employees, we currently have to test not "up to date" employees 2x weekly, does this mean we have to start testing everyone who hasnt had the bivalent booster because that at the moment(at least for our facility) is going to be 95% of our employees that will need to be tested twice a week to be able to work

Priority: N/A-

-Rachel Simon - 1:15 PM

A: This question has been answered verbally.-

-Nicole Koppenhoefer (nicolek@acrmorton.org) - 1:12 PM

Q: If we do designate quarantine rooms, can we make the resident move out of that room after quarantine is over with resident rights of not having to move if they don't want to?

Priority: N/A-

-Rachel Simon - 1:51 PM

A: This question has been answered verbally.-

-Carole Considine (cconsidine@anthemmemorycare.com) - 1:12 PM

Q: Can you detail the "screening" questions that each visitor and employee should answer upon entering our building?

Priority: N/A-

-Rachel Simon - 1:13 PM

A: This question has been answered verbally.-

-Karen Trimberger - 1:15 PM

A: • Establish a process to identify anyone entering the facility, regardless of their vaccination status, who has any of the following criteria so that they can be properly managed:

1) a positive viral test for SARS-CoV-2,

2) symptoms of COVID-19, or

3) persons who meet criteria for quarantine, isolation, or exclusion from work.

-

-Karen Leimberer (karen.leimberer@sunriseseniorliving.com) - 1:12 PM
Q: My concern with the new up to date definition including bivalent booster is the twice a week staff testing twice a week due to high transmission rate. Our team currently has been getting the booster per company protocol, but they are not currently requiring the new booster.
Priority: N/A-

-Tony Madl (tony.madl@myfso.org) - 1:12 PM
Q: The state needs to recognize that COVID is not a disease of the unvaccinated. We have had many staff and residents that tested positive that have been vaccinated and boosted 1-2xs. Testing requirements need to retract
Priority: N/A-

-Deborah Brown (deborah.brown3@ascension.org) - 1:12 PM
Q: Do we need to continue to use the kiosk for all people entering the building?
Priority: N/A-

-Purissima Linchangco - 1:18 PM
A: yes, for now, everyone who comes to LTC facilities - visitors, vendors, staff need to be screened .-

-matt kinsinger (administrator@highlandoakselgin.org) - 1:12 PM
Q: Can you speak to new guidance not up to date and dining?
Priority: N/A-

-Elizabeth Beach (ebeach@jaybirdsl.com) - 1:12 PM
Q: when will we have new guidance?+
Priority: N/A-

-Karla Stiritz (kstiritz@edenvillage.org) - 1:13 PM
Q: Our residents are tired of moving rooms, they consider this their home. It is very disruptive to their lives and it upsets them not to return to their room when the have gone to the hospital. Is their any suggestions for this.
Priority: N/A-

-HOLLY BAUMAN (hbauman@each.org) - 1:13 PM
Q: What about the 90 minutes of training for unvaccinated staff. Is that still required?
Priority: N/A-

-Rachel Simon - 1:22 PM

A: This question has been answered verbally.-

-Eliana Mejia (eliana.mejia@ascension.org) - 1:13 PM

Q: Are we to continue to send weekly letters to residents and families regarding COVID cases even if there are no new cases?

Priority: N/A-

-Elizabeth Beach (ebeach@jaybirdsl.com) - 1:13 PM

Q: is pulse oximetry mandatory for screening of staff, vistors, vendors?

Priority: N/A-

-Rikki Brady (rbrady@clarklindsey.com) - 1:13 PM

Q: If an employee has not had the new booster, is it correct that they are "not considered up to date" and have to be tested according to our community COVID levels?

Priority: N/A-

-Louise Bergthold (lbergthold@generationshcn.com) - 1:13 PM

Q: If a facility is in outbreak status during this period there are many residents who are not up to date thus almost all will require quarantine. Can we just continue to quarantine those who did not have the second booster?

Priority: N/A-

-Carole McGowan (carole@LIBERTYVILLEMANOR.COM) - 1:14 PM

Q: When receiving the bivalent booster, are you considered UTD immediately or is there a 2 week waiting period?

Priority: N/A-

-Rachel Simon - 1:18 PM

A: This question has been answered verbally.-

-Stephanie Coppola (scoppola@norwoodcrossing.org) - 1:13 PM

Q: If residents are wearing masks, and are not "up to date" as a result of this new guidace are residents still able to participate in activities and eat together in the dining room without social distancing as there may not be space to allot that degree of sepatation again across the entire facility

Priority: N/A-

-Rachel Simon - 1:21 PM

A: This question has been answered verbally.-

-Elizabeth Beach (ebeach@jaybirdsl.com) - 1:14 PM

Q: q

Priority: N/A-

-anita ajayi (aajayi@mercycircle.org) - 1:14 PM

Q: with the new Bivalent booster shot , do we now have to Quarantine new admssions who have received the prior 2 booster but not the bivalent?

Priority: N/A-

-Rachel Simon - 1:29 PM

A: This question has been answered verbally.-

-matt kinsinger (administrator@highlandoakselgin.org) - 1:15 PM

Q: Please address dining for residents with two boosters but not up-to-date?

Priority: N/A-

-Monica (Mlisterud@stephensoncountyil.gov) - 1:16 PM

Q: So.....just to clarify.....should direct care staff such as nurses and aids wear N95s during ourbreak? should other non-direct staff wear them when on patient care units?

Priority: N/A-

-Elizabeth Beach (ebeach@jaybirdsl.com) - 1:17 PM

Q: my understanding from the cdc guidance presently in place is that the testing of unvaccinated employees in substantial to high transmission is 2 times weekly

Priority: N/A-

-matt kinsinger (administrator@highlandoakselgin.org) - 1:17 PM

Q: Can you address the legal risk facilities could face if we do not follow CDC up-to-date definition and residents are affected adversely?

Priority: N/A-

-Dean Thomas (dthomas@acskyline.org) - 1:17 PM

Q: Can you tell us the evidence that shows why a person who is not up to date is more susceptible to Covid. We are having a difficult time explaining this to our families.

Priority: N/A-

-Purissima Linchangco - 1:21 PM

A: Latest CDC study on the effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccination and booster vaccine. Please share with staff, residents, and their family especially those who are hesitant receive booster vaccine.

[https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2022/s0715-COVID-VE.html?ACSTrackingID=USCDC_1_3-](https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2022/s0715-COVID-VE.html?ACSTrackingID=USCDC_1_3-DM86210)

[DM86210&ACSTrackingLabel=CDC%20Newsroom%3A%20Week%20In%20Review%20-%2007%2F22%2F22&deliveryName=USCDC_1_3-DM86210-](https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2022/s0715-COVID-VE.html?ACSTrackingLabel=CDC%20Newsroom%3A%20Week%20In%20Review%20-%2007%2F22%2F22&deliveryName=USCDC_1_3-DM86210-)

-Deborah Brown (deborah.brown3@ascension.org) - 1:18 PM

Q: If you recently had Covid can you get the latest booster. How long do you have to wait.

Priority: N/A-

-Rachel Simon - 1:24 PM

A: This question has been answered verbally.-

-Jennifer Baker (administrator@farmingtonvillagenursing.com) - 1:19 PM

Q: How long is this transition period? Staff want to know the date the must have this bivalent booster or test?

Priority: N/A-

-Wendy Berk (wberk@marklund.org) - 1:19 PM

Q: Should employees with recent COVID diagnoses wait 3 months before getting the new bivalent vaccine, or are they able to get it as soon as their symptoms have resolved?

Priority: N/A-

-Mary Alice Lavin - 1:23 PM

A: They do not need to wait 3 months. They can receive the bivalent vaccine booster as soon as they recover from the acute illness as long as it has been 2 months since a last dose. They can wait 90 days if they elect to. -

-Lauren Schlendorf (lcschlendorf@yahoo.com) - 1:20 PM

Q: Is there going to be any changes to faceshield requirements since we seem like we will always be in the red and other healthcare facilities do not have to wear them????

Priority: N/A-

-Purissima Linchangco - 1:27 PM

A: For now, faceshield or eye protection + well fitted mask is required when in a patient care area when the community transmission level is substantial or high. waiting if CDC will have a new recommendation on this. -

-Melanie Baron (mbaron@streatorunlimited.org) - 1:20 PM

Q: Are you able to get the new booster that is specific to omnicrom if you have not gotten any of the other vaccinations or boosters?

Priority: N/A-

-Mary Alice Lavin - 1:21 PM

A: You must complete the primary series before receiving the bivalent vaccine. -

-Wendy Ambrose (wambrose@hdgil.com) - 1:20 PM

Q: NHSN currently says UTD is 14 days after vaccination. Does this change that reporting

Priority: N/A-

-Rachel Simon - 1:42 PM

A: This question has been answered verbally.-

-Sarah Brister - 1:48 PM

A: Here is the link to register for the NHSN webinar on the bivalent booster/up-to-date reporting:

https://cdc.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_y8m5M-umThesAFcgLReG_g-

-Cindy Reed (ipnurse@libertyvillageofcentralia.com) - 1:20 PM

Q: Would be ok for nursing students to administer the Bivalenc vaccine?

Priority: N/A-

-Rachel Simon - 1:26 PM

A: This question has been answered verbally.-

-Guyla Leason (infectioncontrol@universityrc.com) - 1:20 PM

Q: So if i am understanding correctly, a resident who is in isolation due to vaccination status, as soon as the bivalent booster is given then they may come out of isolation then.

Priority: N/A-

-Rachel Simon - 1:28 PM

A: This question has been answered verbally.-

-Jose Martinez (jfm@lambsfarm.org) - 1:20 PM

Q: Reached out to Walgreens for bivalent booster and were told supplies aren't available yet for LTC. Should we test ICF/DD staff twice weekly in the interim or can we wait for supplies?

Priority: N/A-

-Deb Burdsall - 1:22 PM

A: Can the staff independently make appointments with Walgreens to get the updated, bivalent boosters? -

-Deb Burdsall - 1:22 PM

A: Or other pharmacies. -

-Karla Stiritz (kstiritz@edenvillage.org) - 1:20 PM

Q: Our local hospital has never given any covid vaccines to anyone other than their employees. Are hospitals suppose to be giving the vaccine?

Priority: N/A-

-Melissa Biskupic (mbiskupic@symphonynetwork.com) - 1:20 PM

Q: Many hospitals have said they will not be giving the new booster. Will there be a push from IDPH to get them to administer?

Priority: N/A-

-Carole Considine (cconsidine@anthemmemorycare.com) - 1:21 PM

Q: If a person is over 50, they have to get the 2nd booster or be tested tiwce weekly, correct? Does everyone, staff and residents regardless of age have to take the bivalent boster?

Priority: N/A-

-Rachel Simon - 1:43 PM

A: This question has been answered verbally.-

-Jodi Schoenekase (fourpawstimes4@gmail.com) - 1:21 PM

Q: are the pharmacy going to vaccinated employees of the facility as well as the residents

Priority: N/A-

-Rachel Simon - 1:37 PM

A: This question has been answered verbally.-

-Wendy Berk (wberk@marklund.org) - 1:21 PM

Q: Will volunteers continue to be considered as "employees" per the vaccination/testing regulations

Priority: N/A-

-Arti Barnes - 1:22 PM

A: Yes if they have direct patient contact-

-Deb Burdsall - 1:23 PM

A: CDC definition of volunteers is "unpaid employees"-

-Frances Lachowicz (flachowicz@mercycircle.org) - 1:22 PM

Q: if our pharmacy can supply the vaccine for our nursing staff to administer, would the facility still need to do all the recording of the vaccine,

Priority: N/A-

-Arti Barnes - 1:23 PM

A: That would be fair if they have access to ICARE. If not, they would have to give the information to the pharmacies to input into ICARE-

-Danielle King (danielle.woodsking@hcr-manorcare.org) - 1:22 PM

Q: what about the patient who is within 90 days of recovery, CDC says they should not get the booster, therefore they would not be eligible - would they need to be quarantined on admit

Priority: N/A-

-William Casper (bcasper@presbyterianhomes.org) - 1:22 PM

Q: What about requiring hospitals to provide bi-valent vaccine at discharge to all eligible patients.

Priority: N/A-

-Mark Dubovick (mdubovick@admiral.kendal.org) - 1:22 PM

Q: My understanding is that residents in an activity room who are not up to date do not need to social distance, but when dining they do. Is that correct ?

Priority: N/A-

-Brian Celerio (bcelerio@aspiredlivingprospectheights.com) - 1:23 PM

Q: Hello,

Priority: N/A-

-Tony Madl (tony.madl@myfso.org) - 1:23 PM

Q: What will need to occur for us to operate as we did prior to COVID? What needs happen? What is the goal?

Priority: N/A-

-jennifer methvin (jennifer.methvin@taborhills.org) - 1:26 PM

Q: what is the recourse if we have a patient who is aox4 and refuses to remain in 10 day isolation but also is not interested in the vaccines?

Priority: N/A-

-Sandra Zumbahlen (szumbahlen@jasperhealth.org) - 1:23 PM

Q: On the CDC call Tuesday they said that if someone tested positive for COVID to wait 3 months to receive the booster. Is that the guidance IDPH is going to or are we still giving the booster as long as the client is post covid and feeling better.

Priority: N/A-

-Eliana Mejia (eliana.mejia@ascension.org) - 1:23 PM

Q: Are we to continue to send weekly letters to residents and families regarding COVID cases even if there are no new cases?

Priority: N/A-

-Choy J (cjimenez@elevatecare.com) - 1:23 PM

Q: For a resident with primary dose plus 1 monovalent booster dose and it lapsed already like 3 months, should this resident be on quarantine upon admission/readmission?

Priority: N/A-

-Renee Ramos (asstadmin@generationselmwoodpark.com) - 1:23 PM

Q: When a patient comes in from home or the hospital and is UTD with new booster will they still need to be considered PUI for the 7-10days?

Priority: N/A-

-Jose Martinez (jfm@lambsfarm.org) - 1:23 PM

Q: Can you provide the link for the training required for unvaccinated employees?

Priority: N/A-

-Debra Leroy (debra.leroy@cantata.org) - 1:24 PM

Q: any chance that we are going to lessen restrictions for residents wearing masks for communities with low incidence of spread. or low infection rates

Priority: N/A-

-Brittany Netzke (bnetzke@westminstervillageinc.com) - 1:24 PM

Q: If we are required to follow the current CDC guidance - until residents are in fact up to date with the bivalent vaccine, they would need to be socially distanced in the dining and activity spaces...it's your own direction!

Priority: N/A-

-Lisa Winnett (lisajane@ddhomes.net) - 1:24 PM

Q: So family style dining should be occurring in ICF/DD's if no Covid positive individuals?

Priority: N/A-

-Scott Schayer (sschayer@groveofnorthbrook.com) - 1:24 PM

Q: Do residents that go out on pass for more than 24-hours need to isolate and quarantine upon return to the facility?

Priority: N/A-

-Arti Barnes - 1:25 PM

A: Current guidance does state that they should get quarantined IF they are not up to date- so it would be important to get them boosted as soon as they return from the visit (or before).-

-ARIANNE BRUNING (abruning@thegrovefoxvalley.com) - 1:24 PM

Q: If you are unvaccinated HCP - but has had COVID in the last 90 days, can you care for residents who are unvaccinated?

Priority: N/A-

-Rachel Simon - 1:34 PM

A: This question has been answered verbally.-

-Brittany Netzke (bnetzke@westminstervillageinc.com) - 1:25 PM

Q: Also, have you considered the staffing levels that are very slim for the majority of us, how do you suggest us being able to manage all this additional testing/reporting? What help is the State going to send us?

Priority: N/A-

-Wendy Berk (wberk@marklund.org) - 1:25 PM

Q: Will Long Term Care ever have a test-to-stay at work option that doesn't fall under crisis staffing, like schools currently have?

Priority: N/A-

-Christine Hopson (chopson@chliving.org) - 1:25 PM

Q: Some of us have had 2 boosters- so now we have to get another one. How many more boosters are going to be required. Does anyone know.? The staff in the facilities need some kind of reprieve. We hear everytime that another regulation like this comes down that more staff are leaving the industry.

Priority: N/A-

-michelle castronova (michelle.castronova@ascension.org) - 1:25 PM

Q: Is this booster now replacing the prior boosters? For example, if the receive this booster after an initial series, then are they still due a 2nd booster after 5 months?

Priority: N/A-

-Arti Barnes - 1:27 PM

A: Yes but only for age 12 +. So children 5-11 who can get the booster will still get the monovalent booster. -

-Arti Barnes - 1:29 PM

A: Second part of that question- We dont know if they will still need a 2nd bivalent booster in 5 months- that has not been addressed in the CDC recs yet-

-Brian Celerio (bcelerio@aspiredlivingprospectheights.com) - 1:26 PM

Q: In the AL and Memory care settings, what is the current guidance for residents in the dining room and seating arrangements. A significant amount of dining tables were removed in order to accommodate social distancing during meal times. If there are no current cases amongst the residents in the community, is it appropriate now to accommodate the initial full capacity of the dining room. Thanks

Priority: N/A-

-sue schleyhahn (schleyhahn.sue@mhsil.com) - 1:26 PM

Q: if a resident has never been vaccinated and receives the newest booster are they now up to date?

Priority: N/A-

-Zachary Noffsinger - 1:29 PM

A: They would need to first receive the 2 dose primary series prior to getting the bivalent booster. -

-Michelle Stuercke (mstuercke@tc-mgmt.com) - 1:26 PM

Q: What is the guidance regarding receiving the flu vaccine and new booster

Priority: N/A-

-Arti Barnes - 1:29 PM

A: You can give both at the same time per CDC recs-

-Deb Burdsall - 1:31 PM

A: Just had my bivalent updated booster in my left arm and my high dose flu vaccine in my right. -

-Elizabeth Arteaga (earteaga@catholiccharities.net) - 1:27 PM

Q: Some of our residents received 2nd booster in May 2022. Would it be okay to get the Bivalent booster as soon as it becomes available?

Priority: N/A-

-Becca Olsen (jburton@theelmsmacomb.com) - 1:27 PM

Q: will guidance be changing in regards to isolation of residents who are not vaccinated?

Priority: N/A-

-Tom Roome - 1:28 PM

A: This question has been answered verbally.-

-sherry Mauer (sherrymsrn@gmail.com) - 1:27 PM

Q: is the link to education for unvaccinated staff for ALF only?

Priority: N/A-

-Guyla Leason (infectioncontrol@universityrc.com) - 1:27 PM

Q: So if i am understanding correctly, a resident who is in isolation due to vaccination status, as soon as the bivalent booster is given then they may come out of isolation then.

Priority: N/A-

-Mary Alice Lavin - 1:27 PM

A: Yes - an individual is considered up to date once they receive the bivalent vaccine. -

-janine schoen (janine.schoen@thealdennetwork.com) - 1:27 PM

Q: When you say "guidance update" and people are referring to a "guidance update" in the chat....does "guidance update" refer to the inclusion of the bivalent vaccine when determining if someone is up to date or not?

Or have I missed a QSO or Siren?

Priority: N/A-

-Choy J (cjimenez@elevatecare.com) - 1:28 PM

Q: Clarification: For a resident with primary dose plus 1 monovalent booster dose and it lapsed already like 3 months, should this resident be on quarantine upon admission/readmission?

Priority: N/A-

-sherry Mauer (sherrymdsrn@gmail.com) - 1:28 PM

Q: residents that had Covid in the last 90 days and don't want to be vaccinated prior to 90 days

Do they need to be tested twice weekly? beginning when?

Priority: N/A-

-Deb Burdsall - 1:32 PM

A: No-

-Deb Burdsall - 1:32 PM

A: As long as they are within that 90 days-

-Deb Burdsall - 1:33 PM

A: Unless they develop new symptoms. -

-sherry Mauer (sherrymdsrn@gmail.com) - 1:29 PM

Q: So residents that had Covid in the last 90 day need to be tested twice weekly also?

Priority: N/A-

-Arti Barnes - 1:30 PM

A: No-

-Mary Alice Lavin - 1:30 PM

A: Residents being admitted or readmitted who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the last 90 days do not require quarantine or testing as long as they have no signs or symptoms suggestive of acute COVID-19 infection.-

-Sue Lingo (susan.lingo@waterton.com) - 1:30 PM

Q: Back in February, the CDC listed assisted living communities separately from LTC facilities, stating AL should follow recommendations for retirement communities or other non-health congregate settings. Why haven't these CDC recommendations been followed for assisted living in Illinois, when we're otherwise instructed to follow the CDC recommendations?

Priority: N/A-

-Arti Barnes - 1:34 PM

A: Could you share the source of this information? We can help address this. -

-Deb Burdsall - 1:34 PM

A: Here is the CDC page that addresses nursing homes including SNF and AL: <https://www.cdc.gov/longtermcare/index.html>-

-jennifer weininger (jennifer.weininger@cje.net) - 1:30 PM

Q: During high Transmisson rates in Illinois, do we continue testing all staff and residents 2 times per week or only for those who are unvaccinated?

Priority: N/A-

-Zachary Noffsinger - 1:37 PM

A: Hi Jennifer. So if the facility is currently not in outbreak, residents do not have to be routinely tested unless they are symptomatic. Staff who are not up to date need to be tested 2x weekly if in high transmission. If in outbreak, then both staff and residents need to be tested twice weekly regardless of vaccination status. -

-Deena 1970 (deena.karno@myfso.org) - 1:30 PM

Q: I don't think you answered this particular question, so if I didn't understand I apologize. You addressed the CMS/QSEP Infection Control Covid Training, however, do new employees with exemptions still need to take the training explaining the information about the vaccine and busting the myths about the vaccine?

Priority: N/A-

-Deb Burdsall - 1:37 PM

A: Yes, unvaccinated new employees need to do the continuing education, but not the QSEP.-

-Mary Alice Lavin - 1:41 PM

A: Are you licensed under 300? If not email me: mary.lavin@illinois.gov. From 300: Each facility shall provide its unvaccinated staff a minimum of 90 minutes of clear and accurate instruction covering vaccine education, effectiveness, benefits, risks, common reactions, hesitancy, and misinformation. Records of training shall be made available to the Department upon request. Examples of Department approved training and educational resources include those offered for health care professionals by the: -

-Jose Martinez (jfm@lambsfarm.org) - 1:26 PM

Q: Deb, we can direct ICFDD staff to go outside the facility for bivalent vaccine, thanks Jose.

Priority: N/A-

-Deb Burdsall - 1:30 PM

A: Good! I just got my bivalent updated booster on Tuesday. -

-Danielle King (danielle.woodsking@hcr-manorcare.org) - 1:30 PM

Q: So, what will the definition be of up-to-date for a patient considered "covid recovered". If it is unclear exactly when a patient who just had active covid SHOULD receive the bivalent booster, when would you isolate a new admission who was covid recovered, say 1 month or two months beyond active covid? Would you have to quarantine upon admission until receiving the new booster? Or not until patient is beyond the 3-month mark?

Priority: N/A-

-Roy Anderson and Peng (cpeng@aahealthcaremgmt.com) - 1:32 PM

Q: HCCI dated 9/2/22 states "Individuals with a prior COVID-19 infection should wait three months from symptom onset or a positive test (if asymptomatic) before receiving the bivalent booster."

Priority: N/A-

-HOLLY BAUMAN (hbauman@each.org) - 1:32 PM

Q: Do you see the regulations regarding wearing goggles and testing 2x weekly expiring any time soon?

Priority: N/A-

-Janet BRADLE (jbradle@aclifepoints.org) - 1:33 PM

Q: Who do we contact to have a COVID vax clinic through IDPH? Thank you.

Priority: N/A-

-Rachel Simon - 1:42 PM

A: This question has been answered verbally.-

-Stephanie Coppola (scoppola@norwoodcrossing.org) - 1:33 PM

Q: Will there be something sent out in writing regarding Surveyors not citing these things as long as, as youve said, the facility is taking infection control, etc seriously

Priority: N/A-

-Rachel Damalerio (ma.damalerio@ascension.org) - 1:33 PM

Q: the shot?

Priority: N/A-

-JENNIFER QUIGLEY (jqwigley@freeburgcarecenter.com) - 1:34 PM

Q: Can we expect to see an increase in the test kits sent to LTC facilities to offset the new expectations of testing?

Priority: N/A-

-Megan Hodel (megan@achroanoke.org) - 1:34 PM

Q: If we have the Bivalent available to our residents and staff then are we required to follow the up to date definition?? We are needing to know yes or no if we are being held to the IDPH rules of being considered up to date. We have the Bivalent available.
Priority: N/A-

-Karla Stiritz (kstiritz@edenvillage.org) - 1:34 PM

Q: If they are due for a booster and they skip that and go straight for the bivalent to be considered up to date?

Priority: N/A-

-Rachel Simon - 1:36 PM

A: This question has been answered verbally.-

-Christy Czajka (vln_administrator@thealdennetwork.com) - 1:33 PM

Q: Do you need to have the previous boosters before receiving the new booster if they already have the primary series?

Priority: N/A-

-Rachel Simon - 1:36 PM

A: This question has been answered verbally.-

-Mary Ann Martin (maryanne.martin@ascension.org) - 1:34 PM

Q: Our facility has access to the bivalent booster and we started giving to those patients and staff who signed up today. So those who did not get the bivalent booster today, are they considered not up to date?

Priority: N/A-

-Anna Casenas (acasenas@aristahcr.com) - 1:35 PM

Q: If you have not received your second booster, can you get the bivalent vaccine?

Priority: N/A-

-Rachel Simon - 1:35 PM

A: This question has been answered verbally.-

-michelle castronova (michelle.castronova@ascension.org) - 1:35 PM

Q: Will the government continue to provide rapid tests to facilities while testing twice weekly is still mandated?

Priority: N/A-

-Mary Horvath (mhorvath@aahealthcaremgmt.com) - 1:36 PM

Q: If you have Covid how long after can you receive the new Booster

Priority: N/A-

-Michelle Stuercke (mstuercke@tc-mgmt.com) - 1:36 PM

Q: thanks

Priority: N/A-

-Madison Stell (don@rushvillenursing.com) - 1:36 PM

Q: When do the new up to date guidelines go into place? Are staff now considered not up to date if the don't have the new booster? Will they need to be tested twice weekly?

Priority: N/A-

-sherry Mauer (sherrymdsrn@gmail.com) - 1:36 PM

Q: what's the difference between monovalent VS Bivalent ? omicron?

Priority: N/A-

-Deb Burdsall - 1:39 PM

A: The new booster, also called updated booster or bivalent booster has 2 strains of SARS-CoV-2, Alpha, or the original strain, and Omicron, sort of like the way flu shots or pneumococcal vaccines address multiple strains. -

-Deb Burdsall - 1:40 PM

A: <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2022/s0901-covid-19-booster.html>-

-Mary Horvath (mhorvath@aahealthcaremgmt.com) - 1:37 PM

Q: If you just got Covid 19 how long after can you receive the booster

Priority: N/A-

-Rachel Simon - 1:53 PM

A: This question has been answered verbally.-

-Mary Ann Martin (maryanne.martin@ascension.org) - 1:37 PM

Q: Our facility has access to the bivalen booster and we started giving to those patients and staff who signed up today. So those who did not get the bivalent booster today, are they considered not up to date?

Priority: High-

-danielle mcdaniels (dmcdaniels@waterfrontrehab.com) - 1:37 PM

Q: will the bivalent booster take the place of the 2 boosters that are being used at present so that going forward, only 1 booster will be needed?

Priority: N/A-

-Rachel Simon - 1:53 PM

A: This question has been answered verbally.-

-Lisa Winnett (lisajane@ddhomes.net) - 1:37 PM

Q: Just to clarify, in an ICF/DD, if there are not any individuals that are currently COVID positive, should the home be doing family style dining?

Priority: N/A-

-Rachel Simon - 1:42 PM

A: This question has been answered verbally.-

-Mark Dubovick (mdubovick@admiral.kendal.org) - 1:38 PM

Q: NHSN will be updating its definitions after Sept 26th

Priority: N/A-

-Frances Lachowicz (flachowicz@mercycircle.org) - 1:38 PM

Q: If a facility wanted to administer the booster because pharmacy is too busy, what all would the facility need to do in addition to the actual administration.

Priority: High-

-Rachel Simon - 1:57 PM

A: This question has been answered verbally.-

-Anne Marie Caunian (acaunian@selfhelphome.org) - 1:38 PM

Q: Are religious and medical exemptions the only reasons staff can't receive the Bivalent Booster Dose?

Priority: N/A-

-Rachel Simon - 1:40 PM

A: This question has been answered verbally.-

-Jun Esuerte (jesuerte@legacyhc.com) - 1:38 PM

Q: I can understand what Becky is saying that not everyone can get the bivalent booster to make them Up to Date. But testing is not an issue here unless the facility runs out of testing kits or the lab runs out of testing capability. I think that is the majority of the question as the 2 are separate issues. I guess the question is, if the facility in the long run of testing runs out of testing kits, IDPH is not going to cite the facilities who cannot test the Not Up to date staff?

Priority: N/A-

-Madiha Waheed (madiha.waheed@promedica.org) - 1:39 PM

Q: There is an NHSN webinar next week that will clarify this.

Priority: N/A-

-Cindy Reed (ipnurse@libertyvillageofcentralia.com) - 1:39 PM

Q: Is it safe to administer the influenza, pneumonia and Bivalent vaccines at the same time?

Priority: N/A-

-Deb Burdsall - 1:52 PM

A: Excellent question. We need to look further. CDC does address influenza and COVID-19 vaccines at the same visit but I will need to look further for the addition of a pneumococcal injection -

-Mark Dubovick (mdubovick@admiral.kendal.org) - 1:39 PM

Q: Will IDPH be changing the Smartsheet form used for Non CMS facilities for the new booster ?

Priority: N/A-

-Choy J (cjimenez@elevatecare.com) - 1:39 PM

Q: Recommendation/Clarification: Should we need to quarantine admission/readmission if they received only 1 booster dose (monovalent) and it's already 3 or 4 months passed??

Priority: N/A-

-Mary Alice Lavin - 1:44 PM

A: Becky has answered this question. -

-Matt Feucht (mfeucht@acskyline.org) - 1:39 PM

Q: If individuals who are vaccinated are able to get COVID why do we test unvaccinated staff twice weekly only. Those who are vaccinated also are infectious. It testing helps with the spread it seems all staff should be tested.

Priority: N/A-

-Drew Weaver (dweaver@rhc.net) - 1:40 PM

Q: For Assisted Living employees that are considered "not up to date" based on that definition, do they need to be tested weekly based on transmission level in the county?

Priority: N/A-

-Rachel Simon - 1:44 PM

A: This question has been answered verbally.-

-Katy Capito (kcapito@brookdale.com) - 1:40 PM

Q: i don't mean to be redundant . . . if a Resident or Associate is "fully vaccinated" and then they get the bi-valent booster, are they now "up to date"?

Priority: N/A-

-Mary Alice Lavin - 1:43 PM

A: Yes - primary series and bivalent is up to date-

-Kelley Donley (kdonley2@lakecountyil.gov) - 1:40 PM

Q: Hi Zach. Just a note on your last answer. Guidance allows LHD to be stricter in testing. LCHD recommends testing of residents when not in outbreak every 2 weeks.

Priority: N/A-

-Zachary Noffsinger - 1:41 PM

A: That is correct Kelley. LHD can require stricter measures.

Thanks. -

-Gazalla Mistry (gazalla.mistry@ablehearts.org) - 1:41 PM

Q: Can you elaborate on Flu vaccine similar to the COVID vaccine being mandatory for healthcare workers and exceptions to the rule?

Priority: N/A-

-Deb Burdsall - 1:43 PM

A: Hi Garzalla, Influenza vaccine can be declined for the same reasons as COVID-19, medical or religious. Illinois has a requirement for a signed declination. -

-Sue Lingo (susan.lingo@waterton.com) - 1:42 PM

Q: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html>

Priority: N/A-

-Deb Burdsall - 1:44 PM

A: "This guidance applies to all U.S. settings where healthcare is delivered, including home health."-

-Tony Madl (tony.madl@myfso.org) - 1:44 PM

Q: Why are you censoring my questions, as they are not showing up on the Q&A for all.?

Priority: N/A-

-Mary Alice Lavin - 1:50 PM

A: Tony - we are not censoring any questions. It is hard to track the questions. If your question has not been answered, please enter it again. -

-Gazalla Mistry (gazalla.mistry@ablehearts.org) - 1:44 PM

Q: Can you elaborate whether or not a PCR is required to confirm a COVID positive on an antigen test for residents in nursing home?

Priority: N/A-

-Deb Burdsall - 1:46 PM

A: Here is the CDC testing guidance.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/lab/resources/antigen-tests-guidelines.html>-

-Deb Burdsall - 1:47 PM

A: <https://dph.illinois.gov/covid19/community-guidance/long-term-care/antigen-testing.html>-

-Deb Burdsall - 1:47 PM

A: Start with the IDPH link. -

-Janet BRADLE (jbradle@aclifepoints.org) - 1:44 PM

Q: I am from an ICF/DD facility and when I called to set up a COVID Vax booster clinic I was told they are no longer offering them. Is this correct?

Priority: N/A-

-Catherine Counard - 1:49 PM

A: Hi Janet - could you send me the details at catherine.counard@illinois.gov-

-Jocelyn Rosales (jocelyn.rosales@arborcompany.com) - 1:44 PM

Q: The second booster is only indicated for 50 and above? Does that mean we offer the bivalent for the staff after their 1st booster dose?

Priority: N/A-

-Stacy Gordon (stacy.gordon@myfso.org) - 1:45 PM

Q: There have been some concerns of the long term effects of repeated vaccinations and boosters. Is there updated research information which

would help allay these fears so that we can encourage associates to get up to date vaccination?

Priority: N/A-

-Deb Burdsall - 1:48 PM

A: Excellent questions. We can follow up after some looking -

-Tom Smith (tsmith@theclare.com) - 1:46 PM

Q: Just confirming, an individual is up to date if they have received the primary series and a booster dose within the last 2 months - even if booster is not bivalent.

Priority: N/A-

-Zachary Noffsinger - 1:48 PM

A: Hi Tom. That is Correct. They would need to wait 2 months after the most recent booster prior to getting the bivalent vaccine. -

-Catherine Counard - 1:51 PM

A: Hi Tom - a person is not considered up-to-date if they are eligible to receive the COVID-19 bivalent booster dose (2 months since primary series or prior booster dose) and have not received it.-

-Carole Considine (cconsidine@anthemmemorycare.com) - 1:47 PM

Q: For Assisted Living, my staff and residents would not need to test at all if "up to date", even if the transmission level is high unless we are in outbreak mode, correct?

Priority: N/A-

-Zachary Noffsinger - 1:50 PM

A: Hi Carole. If you are not in outbreak, then only unvaccinated staff would need to be tested based on the transmission level. The testing rules for AL staff are based on "fully vaccinated" as opposed to "up to date"-

-Katlyn Tims (katlyn.tims@wciagingnetwork.org) - 1:47 PM

Q: How does the regulation/booster updates affect supportive living staff and residents?

Priority: N/A-

-Rachel Simon - 1:49 PM

A: This question has been answered verbally.-

-Jane Homolka (jhomolka@marybryanthome.org) - 1:47 PM

Q: What guidelines should supportive living follow?

Priority: High-

-Catherine Counard - 1:59 PM

A: Please look at the IDPH guidance - up-to-date is only for CMS-certified facilities-

-Sandra Bernett (s.bernett@lancasterhg.com) - 1:48 PM

Q: If an employee claims a religious exemption, is it required that the form be signed by a minister/pastor, etc

Priority: N/A-

-Rachel Simon - 1:50 PM

A: This question has been answered verbally.-

-Tammie Denning (tdenning@fultonco.org) - 1:48 PM

Q: Can you say that this booster is going to be the last required vaccine to be up to date? I have had several family members and staff ask at what point is this going to be enough vaccines? Their concerns are they have had 3 to 4 vaccines for the same virus in 2 years and now 5 for most LTC residents.. Trying to answer all their question, as i have told them not sure related to strains. Also is this going to be a yearly booster or vaccine?

Priority: N/A-

-Purissima Linchangco - 1:51 PM

A: We follow the CDC guidelines, we only recommend what they say. -

-Deb Burdsall - 1:55 PM

A: Yes, to add to Connie's answer, CDC made the definition flexible. If the SARS-CoV-2 virus mutates significantly, it may be necessary to have a modified booster, but it seems that they are looking at this becoming more of an annual vaccine like a flu shot. As Connie said, we will follow CDC-

-Sue Lingo (susan.lingo@waterton.com) - 1:49 PM

Q: This is from the CDC link I sent: Assisted Living Communities

In general, assisted living communities should follow recommendations for retirement communities or other non-healthcare congregate settings. Residents should also be counseled about strategies to protect themselves and others; CDC has a number of resources for older adults. 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 livin

Priority: N/A-

-Deb Burdsall - 1:59 PM

A: Excellent point as long as your population matches the population usually found in retirement communities (e.g. minimal medical management). In some AL that have significant numbers of residents on hospice, or memory care where there may be significant face to face interaction with healthcare personnel. What level of care do your residents need? -

-April Graham (april.graham@myfso.org) - 1:51 PM

Q: Do you know when the Smartsheet reporting document will be updated to include the Bivalent COVID Booster?

Priority: N/A-

-Rachel Simon - 1:52 PM

A: This question has been answered verbally.-

-Madison Stell (don@rushvillenursing.com) - 1:53 PM

Q: As of now is twice weekly testing for unvaccinated staff based on fully vaccinated or "up to date"?

Priority: N/A-

-Theresa Poole (tpoole@chliving.org) - 1:51 PM

Q: The answer you gave about the 90 minute education for unvaccinated staff---can you tell me where to find that as I need to see the examples of approved trainings. Thanks!

Priority: N/A-

-Mary Alice Lavin - 1:53 PM

A: Theresa - send me an email and I will find the link and send it to you. How are you licensed? mary.lavin@illinois.gov-

-Dawn St. Clair-Davis (dawn.st.clair-davis@lulife.org) - 1:53 PM

Q: If reporting data in NHSN even if not required to report in NHSN (i.e. assisted living) is it also required to fill out the smartsheet? Meaning if we report in NHSN does that cover the mandate for reporting to smartsheet also?

Priority: N/A-

-Rachel Simon - 1:54 PM

A: This question has been answered verbally.-

-Monica (Mlisterud@stephensoncountyil.gov) - 1:53 PM

Q: So.....just to clarify.....should direct care staff such as nurses and aids wear N95s during outbreak? should other non-direct care staff wear them when in patient care units? I am soeking about units that do not have positive cases but where a positive case may have come from

Priority: N/A-

-Rachel Simon - 1:59 PM

A: This question has been answered verbally.-

-Julie Scholl (schollj@kreiderservices.org) - 1:53 PM

Q: If individuals were just boosted again, are they required to get the Bivalent booster right away or is there a waiting time period?

Priority: N/A-

-Zachary Noffsinger - 1:54 PM

A: They would not be eligible for the bivalent vaccine until 2 months has elapsed since the most recent monovalent booster has been given-

-Stacy Gordon (stacy.gordon@myfso.org) - 1:54 PM

Q: Will there be a point in time when COVID may be treated similar to influenza so that we are able to continue to move forward. Many former associates have commented they have left the field of LTC due to having to mask all the time. It's not easy.

Priority: N/A-

-Tammie Denning (tdenning@fultonco.org) - 1:54 PM

Q: Can you send me that link for 90 min education please. Thank you

Priority: N/A-

-Mary Alice Lavin - 1:55 PM

A: Tammie - email me mary.lavin@illinois.gov How are you licensed? -

-Tricia Tull (tricia.tull@ascension.org) - 1:56 PM

Q: It would be helpful to have the guidance you are sharing verbally in writing. Since there are no slides today, will you be sending out this guidance, specifically, on the up to date definition and IP guidance. Thank you!

Priority: N/A-

-sue schleyhahn (schleyhahn.sue@mhsil.com) - 1:56 PM

Q: is the reinfection period of 90 days still accurate for not testing colleagues or residents?

Priority: N/A-

-Purissima Linchangco - 1:59 PM

A: Yes, as long as they are asymptomatic. However, if they have high risk exposure and develop symptoms, they need to be tested.-

-Deborah Brown (deborah.brown3@ascension.org) - 1:59 PM

Q: Does this also pertain to goggles and masks?

Priority: N/A-

-jennifer weininger (jennifer.weininger@cje.net) - 1:59 PM

Q: can you please resend link for 90 min educatoion?

Priority: N/A-

-Deb Burdsall - 2:00 PM

A: We will resend those links. -

-Monique Evans-Washington (monique.evans-washington@promedica.org) - 2:00 PM

Q: can you post the link for NHSN that was stated.

Priority: N/A-

-Stacy Gordon (stacy.gordon@myfso.org) - 2:01 PM

Q: Thank you all very much.

Priority: N/A-

-Monique Evans-Washington (monique.evans-washington@promedica.org) - 2:01 PM

Q: Have a great weekend

Priority: N/A-