



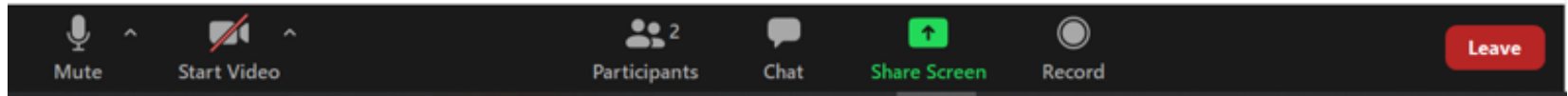
Health Quality Innovation Network



Health Quality Innovation Network



Logistics – Zoom Meeting



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Resources from today's session will be posted in **Chat**.

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Infection Prevention and Control Office Hours

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September 18, 2024

Fall Respiratory Season Preparation, Including COVID-19, RSV and Influenza

Presented by: DeAnn Richards, RN, BSN,
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Objectives

The learner will be able to:

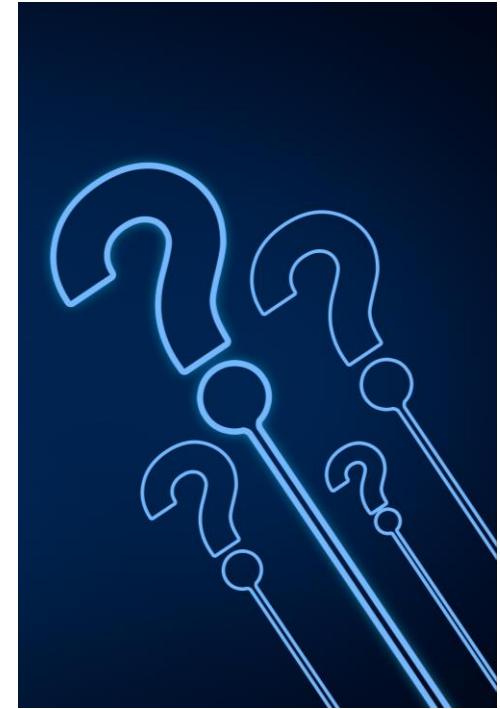
- Identify and validate key respiratory plan elements
- Acknowledge strategies that result in decreased respiratory pathogens transmission
- Ask questions of the subject matter experts to clarify individual and facility understanding of best practices



Polling Question

When was your last facility's respiratory outbreak?

- A. Within the past three months
- B. Within the past six months
- C. Within the past year
- D. Greater than a year



Viral Respiratory Pathogens Toolkit for Nursing Homes

Preparation Key Components: Vaccinate

- CMS requirements (i.e., influenza, pneumococcal, COVID-19)
- CDC recommendations (e.g., RSV)
- Educate and offer

Table 1 Recommended Adult Immunization Schedule by Age Group, United States, 2024

Vaccine	19–26 years	27–49 years	50–64 years	≥65 years
COVID-19	1 or more doses of updated (2023–2024 Formula) vaccine (See Notes)			
Influenza inactivated (IIV4) or Influenza recombinant (RIV4)	1 dose annually			
Influenza live, attenuated (LAIV4)	1 dose annually		or	
Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)	Seasonal administration during pregnancy. See Notes.		>60 years	

How to use the adult immunization schedule

- 1 Determine recommended vaccinations by age (**Table 1**)
- 2 Assess need for additional recommended vaccinations by medical condition or other indication (**Table 2**)
- 3 Review vaccine types, dosing frequencies and intervals, and considerations for special situations (**Notes**)
- 4 Review contraindications and precautions for vaccine types (**Appendix**)
- 5 Review new or updated ACP guidance (**Addendum**)

Viral Respiratory Pathogens Toolkit for Nursing Homes

Preparation Key Components: Allocate Resources

- Hand hygiene
- Personal protective equipment
- Testing supplies
- Vaccine supplies



Viral Respiratory Pathogens Toolkit for Nursing Homes

Preparation Key Components: Monitor and Mask

- Community spread
- Determination of when masking will be encouraged



Viral Respiratory Pathogens Toolkit for Nursing Homes

Preparation Key Components: Educate

- Recommended practices in response to community and facility infections
- Symptomatic visitors to delay visitation
- Test exposed individuals, and if they remain asymptomatic, mask when in the facility
- Facility-acquired respiratory tract infection determination

Type of Infection	Signs and Symptoms	Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Common cold syndrome or pharyngitis	<p>MUST HAVE at least 2 of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Runny nose or sneezing <input type="checkbox"/> Stuffy nose (i.e., congestion) <input type="checkbox"/> Sore throat or hoarseness or difficulty swallowing <input type="checkbox"/> Dry cough <input type="checkbox"/> Swollen or tender glands in neck (cervical lymphadenopathy) 	Fever may or may not be present. Symptoms must be new and not attributable to allergies.
<input type="checkbox"/> Influenza – like illness (ILI)	<p>MUST HAVE fever*</p> <p>MUST HAVE at least 3 of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Chills <input type="checkbox"/> New headache or eye pain <input type="checkbox"/> Myalgias or body aches <input type="checkbox"/> Malaise or loss of appetite <input type="checkbox"/> Sore throat <input type="checkbox"/> New or increased dry cough 	If criteria for influenza-like illness and another upper or lower respiratory tract infection (RTI) are met at the same time, ONLY the diagnosis of influenza-like illness should be recorded. Because of increasing uncertainty surrounding the timing of the start of influenza season, the peak of influenza activity, and the length of the season, "seasonality" is no longer a criterion to define influenza-like illness.

Viral Respiratory Pathogens Toolkit for Nursing Homes

Preparation Key Components: Ventilate

- Explore changes to the facility ventilation system
- Air exchanges per hour
- Wait time for re-occupancy
- Vents not blocked

Enhanced Strategies

Improving ventilation, filtration, and air treatment systems in buildings can help lower the concentration of viral particles in the air.

- 1 Aim for 5**

Aim to deliver 5 or more air changes per hour (ACH) of clean air to rooms in your building. This will help reduce the number of viral particles in the air. You may need to use a combination of ventilation (air supply, filtration, and air treatment) strategies to reach this target.
- 2 Upgrade filters**

Use filters rated **MERV-13** or higher, when possible. Using higher-rated filters in your heating or air conditioning system can remove more germs in the air than lower-rated filters.
- 3 Turn your HVAC system "ON"**

Set your ventilation system to circulate more air when people are in the building. You can do this by setting the thermostat's fan control to the "ON" position instead of "AUTO." This will make the fan operate continuously but can increase fan energy use, so limit use to when needed.
- 4 Add fresh air**

Bring more clean outdoor air into spaces by opening windows and doors and using exhaust fans. Even small openings can help.
- 5 Use air cleaners**

Air cleaners (also known as air purifiers) filter air with high-efficiency filters that remove germs from the air. Choose one that's the right size for your space.
- 6 Install UV air treatment systems**

UV air treatment systems can kill germs in the air. They can also provide a high level of effective air changes per hour while using little energy.
- 7 Use portable carbon dioxide (CO₂) monitors**

A portable CO₂ monitor can help you determine how stale or fresh the air is in rooms. Readings above 800 parts per million (ppm) suggest that you may need to bring more fresh, outdoor air into the space.

Viral Respiratory Pathogens Toolkit for Nursing Homes

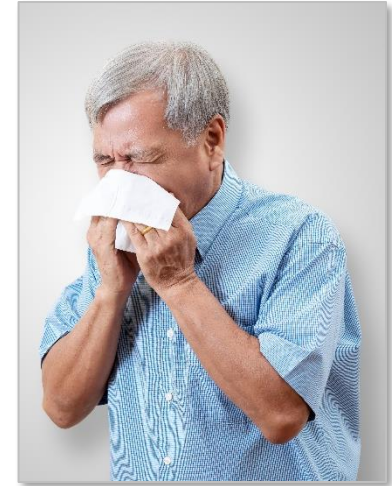
Preparation Key Components: Test and Treat

- Rapid clinical evaluation
- Timely treatment or prophylaxis
- Respiratory testing




Fall Respiratory Season Preparation

- Vaccinate
- Allocate resources
- Monitor and mask
- Educate
- Ventilate
- Test and Treat



Preparation Checklist



Fall Respiratory Season Preparation Checklist

Use this checklist to identify targeted areas on which to focus your facility's vaccination planning efforts.

Area	In Place	In Process	Need to Address
The facility outbreak plan(s) has been reviewed within the past year.			
The facility has an influenza outbreak plan that is consistent with current recommendations.			
The facility has a COVID-19 outbreak plan that is consistent with current recommendations.			
The vaccinations provided by the facility have been determined.			
The vaccination plan includes how education will be provided and documented.			
The vaccination plan includes how vaccines will be offered and how decisions will be documented.			
The current year vaccine information statement (VIS) is in use.			
Par reorder levels have been established for hand hygiene supplies (e.g., soap, paper towels, hand sanitizer/gel).			
Par reorder levels have been established for personal protective equipment (e.g., gloves, gowns, masks, respirators, eye protection).			
Par reorder levels have been established for testing supplies (e.g., kits, swabs).			
Par reorder levels have been established for vaccination supplies (e.g., vaccines, swabs, needles, syringes).			
A process (i.e., who, when, how) for monitoring community virus spread has been established.			

Preparation Checklist, cont'd

A facility masking determination has been established, based on community spread				
A procedure is in place to educate visitors on delaying visits if they have been exposed or are symptomatic.				
A plan is in place to educate staff on who to notify if anyone is exposed to an infected person in the community as well as next steps to take.				
Staff is provided education on the possible need to test post-exposure and when a mask is needed if they remain asymptomatic.				
The ventilation system is checked to ensure it is maintained per the manufacturer.				
A process is in place to ensure that ventilation filters are changed per the manufacturer's instructions.				
A process is in place to ensure that ventilation filters fit in the filter rack to avoid the distribution of unfiltered air.				
A team member is assigned to investigate the CDC's strategies to improve facility ventilation.				
A process is in place to establish surveillance for common respiratory pathogen symptoms.				
Testing method(s) have been established for common respiratory pathogens.				
A method has been established for common respiratory pathogen treatment or prophylaxis.				

This material was prepared by Health Quality Innovators (HQI), a Quality Innovation Network-Quality Improvement Organization (QIN-QIO) under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Views expressed in this material do not necessarily reflect the official views or policy of CMS or HHS, and any reference to a specific product or entity herein does not constitute endorsement of that product or entity by CMS or HHS. 12SOW/HQI/QIN-QIO-0812-09/11/24



Resources

- **American Health Care Association National Center for Assisted Living Summary of CMS Vaccine Regulations for LTC:** <https://www.ahcancal.org/Quality/Documents/GetVaccinated/Summary%20of%20CMS%20Vaccine%20Regulations.pdf>
- **The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 2024 Recommended Adult Immunization Schedule:** <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/imz-schedules/downloads/adult/adult-combined-schedule.pdf>
- **The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Vaccine Information Statements (VISs):** <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/index.html>
- **The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Preventing Transmission of Viral Respiratory Pathogens in Healthcare Settings:** <https://www.cdc.gov/infection-control/hcp/viral-respiratory-prevention/index.html>
- **The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Infection Control Actions to stop the spread of viral respiratory infections like influenza, RSV, and COVID-19:** <https://www.cdc.gov/project-firstline/media/pdfs/respiratory-actions-508.pdf>
- **The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Masking Poster:** <https://www.cdc.gov/project-firstline/media/pdfs/masking-sign-5-ltc-508.pdf>
- **The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Project Firstline Masking Poster:** <https://www.cdc.gov/project-firstline/media/pdfs/masking-sign-4-ltc-508.pdf>
- **North Carolina Statewide Program for Infection Control and Epidemiology LTC Respiratory Tract Infection Worksheet:** <https://spice.unc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Respiratory-Tract-Infection-Worksheet-McGeer-SPICE.pdf>

Resources

- **The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Respiratory Illnesses Data Channel:** <https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/data/index.html>
- **The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Project Firstline Masking Poster:** <https://www.cdc.gov/project-firstline/media/pdfs/masking-sign-4-ltc-508.pdf>
- **The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Project Firstline Ventilation in Healthcare Settings:** <https://www.cdc.gov/project-firstline/media/pdfs/Ventilation-508.pdf>
- **The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Ventilation in Buildings:** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/ventilation.html>
- **The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Improving Ventilation In Buildings:** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/improving-ventilation-in-buildings.html>
- **The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Ventilation Can Reduce Exposure to Respiratory Viruses in Indoor Spaces:** <https://www.cdc.gov/ncird/whats-new/ventilation-respiratory-viruses.html>
- **Arkansas Health Care Association Indoor Air Quality Toolkit:** https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/966c8uynjf1s5i4r08srf/AK1IPEu4AzYW06aFF6TBk6I/Indoor%20Air%20Quality?dl=0&rlkey=h1v20ut4qg6wzhcuxt7ml3pau&subfolder_nav_tracking=1
- **The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Testing and Management Considerations for Nursing Home Residents with Acute Respiratory Illness Symptoms when SARS-CoV-2 and Influenza Viruses are Co-circulating:** <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/diagnosis/testing-management-considerations-nursinghomes.htm>
- **The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Interim Guidance for Influenza Outbreak Management in Long-Term Care and Post-Acute Care Facilities:** <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/ltc-facility-guidance.htm>

Resources

- **The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Infection Control Guidance: SARS-CoV-2:**
https://www.cdc.gov/covid/hcp/infection-control/?CDC_AAref_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html
- **The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Clinical Overview of RSV:** <https://www.cdc.gov/rsv/hcp/clinical-overview/index.html>
- **American Health Care Association National Center for Assisted Living Long-term Care Quick Start Guide: Preparing For Respiratory Virus Season:**
<https://www.ahcancal.org/Quality/Documents/GetVaccinated/CDC%20Resources/Long-term%20Care%20Quick%20Start%20Guide%20for%20Respiratory%20Virus%20Season.pdf>
- **[Best Practices Pocket Cards | HQIN](#)**
- **[Your Health Can't Wait, Vaccinate! Resources | HQIN](#)**
- **[Vaccine Hesitancy/Misinformation Resources | HQIN](#)**
- **[Vaccinations/Immunizations | HQIN](#)**
- **[Return to Work Criteria for Healthcare Personnel with COVID-19 | HQIN](#)**
- **[Pandemic, Outbreak or Endemic? How Do We Protect Ourselves? | HQIN](#)**
- **[Patients, Families & Caregivers: Vaccinations/Immunizations | HQIN](#)**
- **[Fall Respiratory Season Preparation Checklist | HQIN](#)**

Office Hours Q&A

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Next Office Hours: September 25, 2024 Respiratory Viruses Process Surveillance to Prevent Healthcare-Acquired Infections (HAIs)

Registration link:

https://apic.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEpdusqDouGdYO8fuQKmFdHW9o_EFEIke6

Today's Office Hours Evaluation link:

https://apic.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8dlnwpHJqIF1WXI

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