



AIRA
AMERICAN IMMUNIZATION
REGISTRY ASSOCIATION

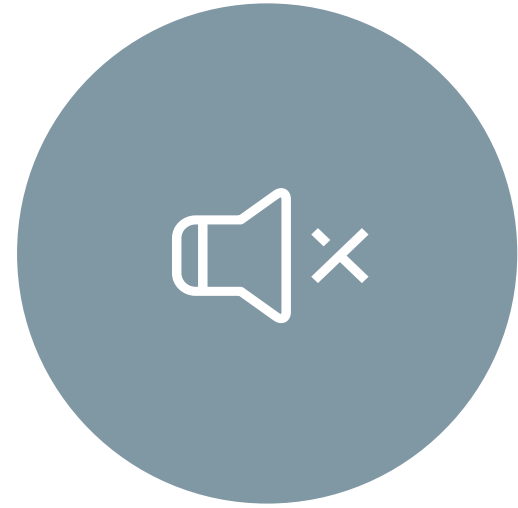
AIRA Discovery Session: IIS and Long-Term Care Onboarding and Access

Discovery Session
August 23, 2021
4 PM EST

AIRA Discovery Session



This meeting is being recorded
and will be posted in the
AIRA repository

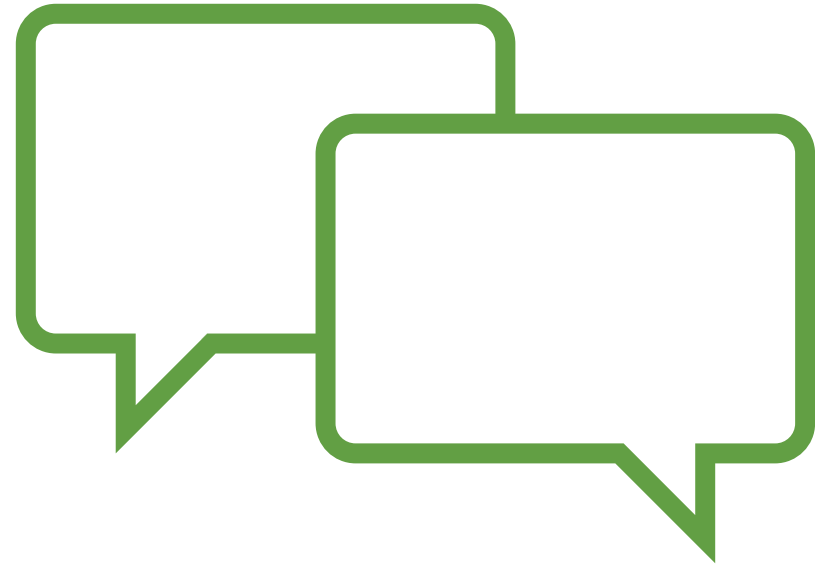


All phone lines
are muted



Technical Support

If you experience any technical issues during the meeting, please contact **Sarah Stein** via direct message in the Chat.



New and Evolving Guidance

- Recommendation for 3rd dose of COVID-19 for immunocompromised:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/immuno.html>
- Recommendation for booster dose for all recipients of Moderna and Pfizer vaccine: Formal guidance anticipated, but in the meantime:
<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/08/16/us/politics/booster-shots.html>
- Requirement for all Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) staff and residents to be vaccinated for COVID-19:
<https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/biden-harris-administration-takes-additional-action-protect-americas-nursing-home-residents-covid-19>

Today's Speakers

- Dr. David Gifford, AHCA
- Dr. Nimalie Stone, CDC
- Mary Woinarowicz, North Dakota
- Meghan Quinn, Maryland

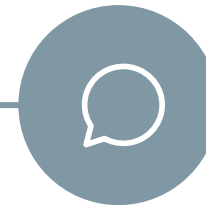


Questions

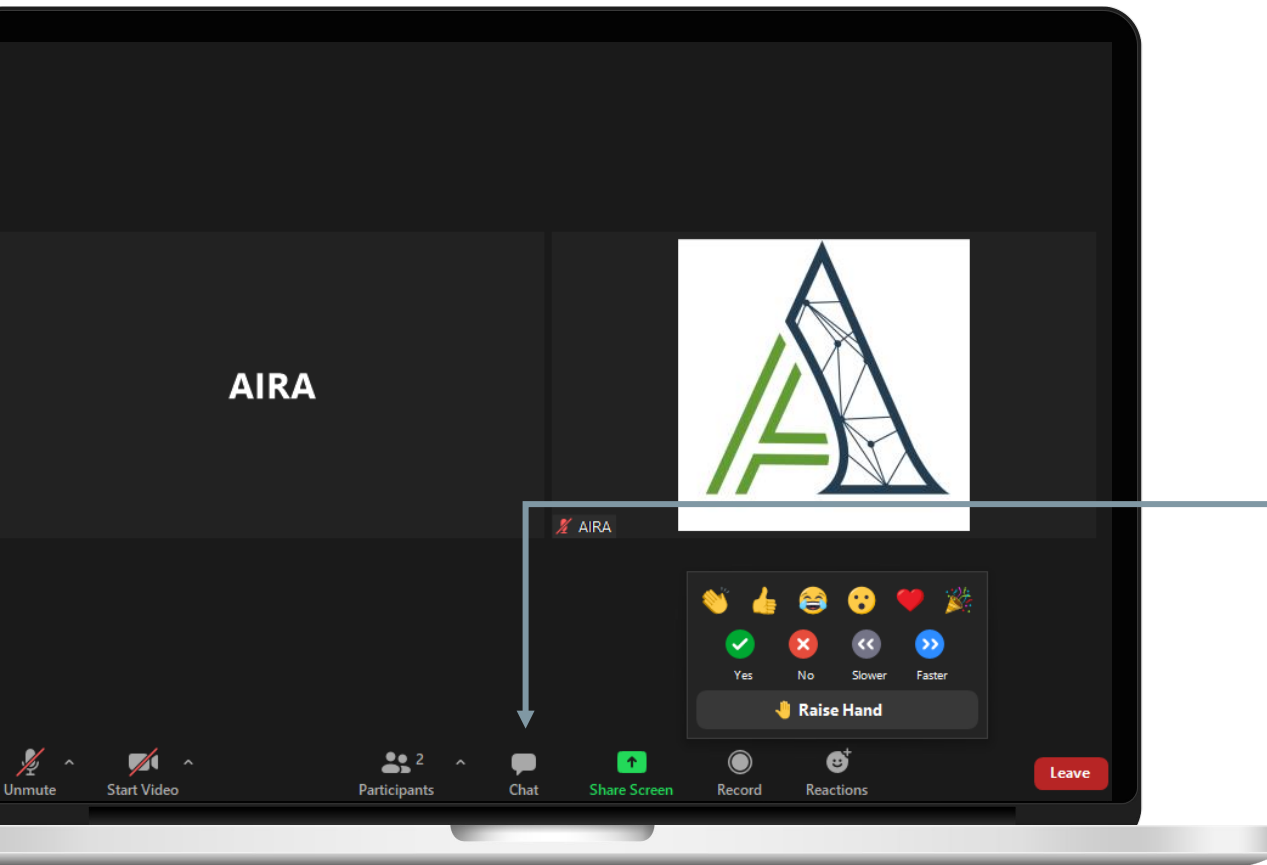
How do I ask a question?

There will be time allotted for Q&A following the presentations.

If you think of a question during the presentations:



Select the chat icon and type your question into the chat box.



Dr. David Gifford (for Urvi Patel)

AHCA



COVID-19 Vaccine Access in LTC

Urvi Patel

Senior Director Quality Improvement





Long Term Care



AHCA/NCAL

Improving lives by delivering solutions
for quality of care.



Long Term Care

- Provide care for millions of older Americans
- SNFs
- ALs
- ICFs/IID



SNFs

- 15,331 facilities
- 92% of counties in the US have a SNF
- Number of residents/patients: 1,116,786
- Number of staff: 3,267,550



Resident Demographics

Gender	
Women	61.52%
Male	38.48%
Age	
18-65	17.20%
65-70	9.60%
70-75	11.50%
75-80	12.80%
80-85	14.30%
85-90	15.10%
90+	19.60%
Race	
White	72.60%
Black / African American	15.64%
Hispanic or Latino	5.65%
Asian / Pacific Islander	2.33%
Native American / Alaska Native	0.49%



Staff Demographics

Women	83.60%
White	64.60%
Black or African American	27.70%
Asian	5.10%
Hispanic or Latino	10.70%

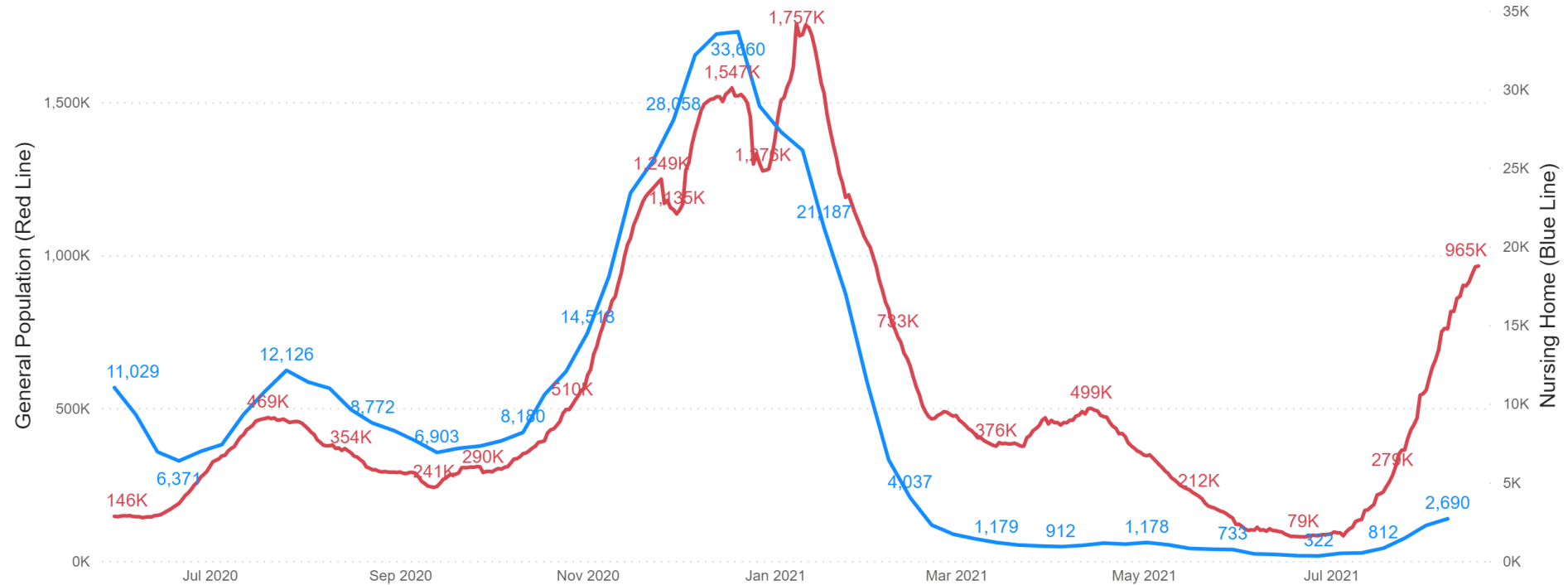
State

All

COVID-19 New Cases: General Population & Nursing Homes

New Case Trends: General Population & Nursing Home Residents (7-day)

● General Population ● Nursing Home Cases



Data Through: Nursing Home - Aug 8, 2021 (*Latest week's data is preliminary); Community - Aug 11, 2021 **Sources:** NHSN and Johns Hopkins University

State

All

COVID-19 Among Nursing Home Staff

Total Cases

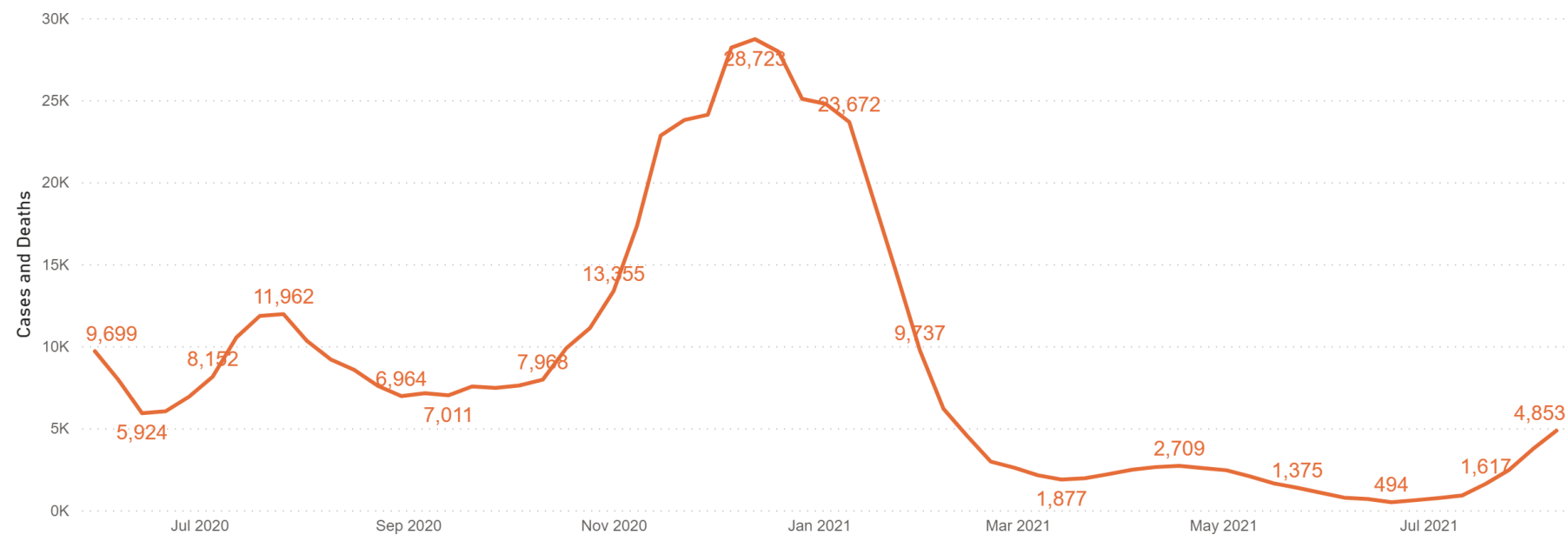
600,073

Total Deaths

1,992

Trend of New Cases

Measure ● New Staff Cases



Data Through: Week ending Aug 8, 2021 (*Latest week's data is preliminary and represents fewer nursing homes than other weeks)

Source: NHSN **Notes:** May 24, 2020 includes collective historic data and is excluded from the graph since it does not capture that specific week.



COVID-19 Vaccines



Vaccine Uptake

- Resident vaccination rate: 82.9%
- Staff vaccination rate: 61%



Vaccine Coalition

- Identify challenges preventing rapid, reliable access to COVID-19 vaccine in LTC facilities and identify recommendations to improve access.



Recent Developments

- Third Dose
- Booster Shot
- Mandatory Vaccination



Vaccine Mandates

Effective Dates			
June	September		October
MS* – 6/14	CA – 9/30	MD* – 9/1	ME – 10/1
	CT – 9/7	NM – 9/19	MA – 10/10
	DC – 9/30	NY – 9/27	RI – 10/1
	DE* – 9/30	OR* – 9/30	WA – 10/18

*mandate includes provision to allow testing in lieu of vaccine



Getting the Vaccine

1. SNF is the vaccine provider (32%)
2. Working with a LTC pharmacy
3. Working with a commercial pharmacy



Registering with an IIS

- Determine appropriate time for second dose or booster shots for residents
- Determine which staff members have received the COVID-19 vaccine
- Submit vaccine administration information
- State requirement



Challenges

- SNFs concerned about additional data submission burden
- SNFs don't feel like they are being prioritized by IIS
- SNF EMR vendor is not willing to work with an IIS

AHCA[®]
AMERICAN HEALTH CARE ASSOCIATION

NCAI[®]
NATIONAL CENTER FOR ASSISTED LIVING

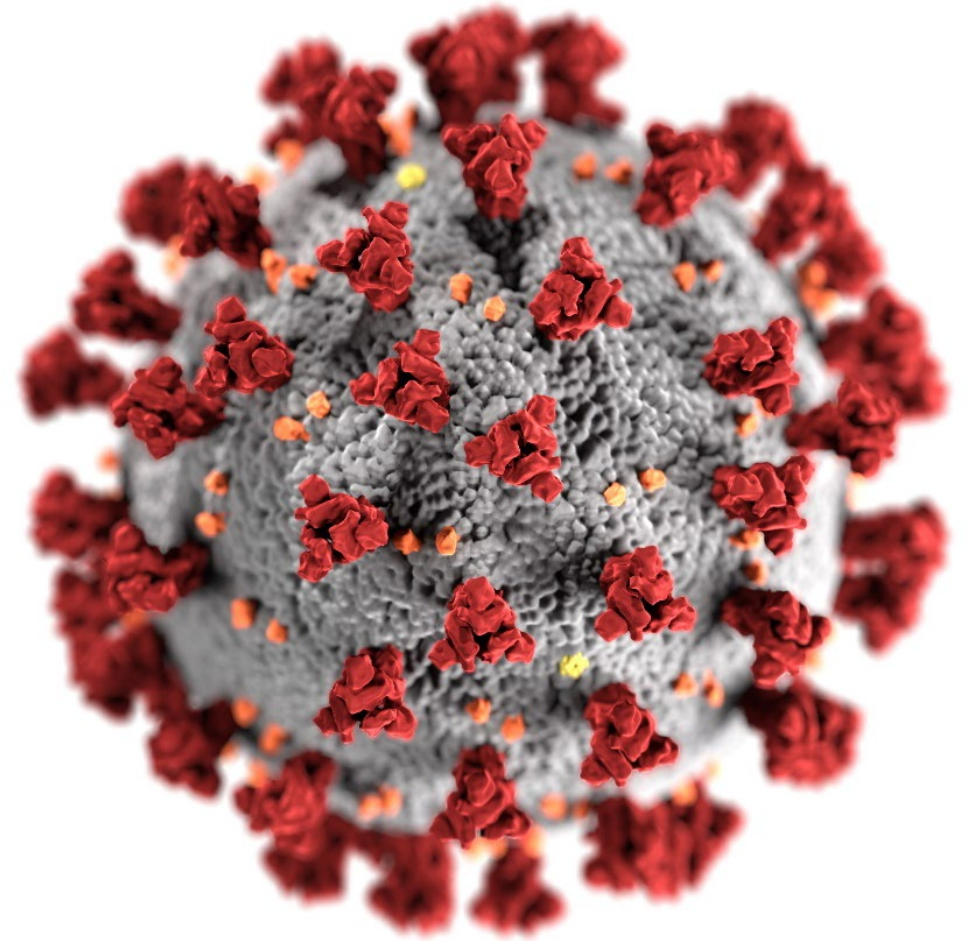
IMPROVING LIVES *by*
DELIVERING SOLUTIONS *for*
QUALITY CARE

Dr. Nimalie Stone

CDC



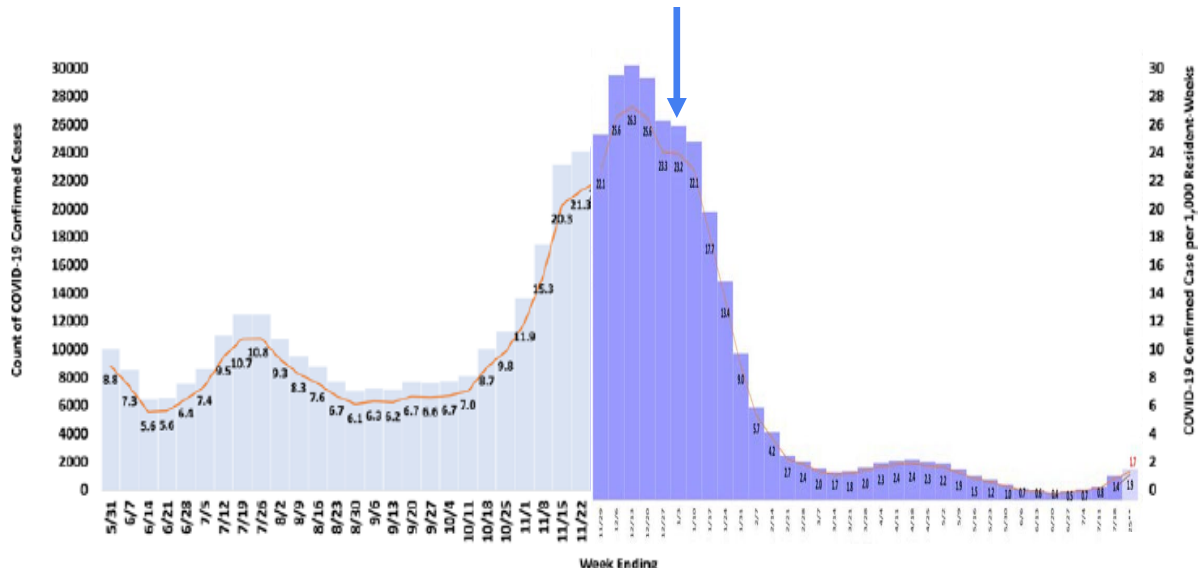
Ensuring Access to COVID-19 vaccine for LTC residents and staff



For more information: www.cdc.gov/COVID19

COVID-19 Rates among Residents and Staff in U.S. Nursing Homes: May 2020-July 2021, Inferred Data

Staff: Cases per 1,000 Resident-Weeks, U.S.
(Number of facilities = 15,378)
Most recent 4 week-change: Increase



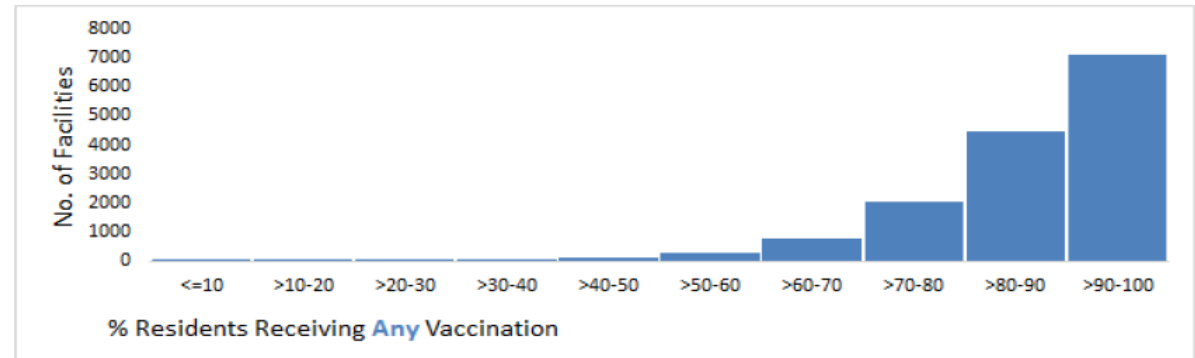
COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage in CMS-Certified Nursing Homes Reporting within last 2 Weeks through Week Ending August 15, 2021*

Among **14,962** facilities reporting*

Residents: 85.7%

Any COVID-19 vaccination
(1,006,234 residents)

Distribution of SNF Residents¹ Receiving **Any** Vaccination

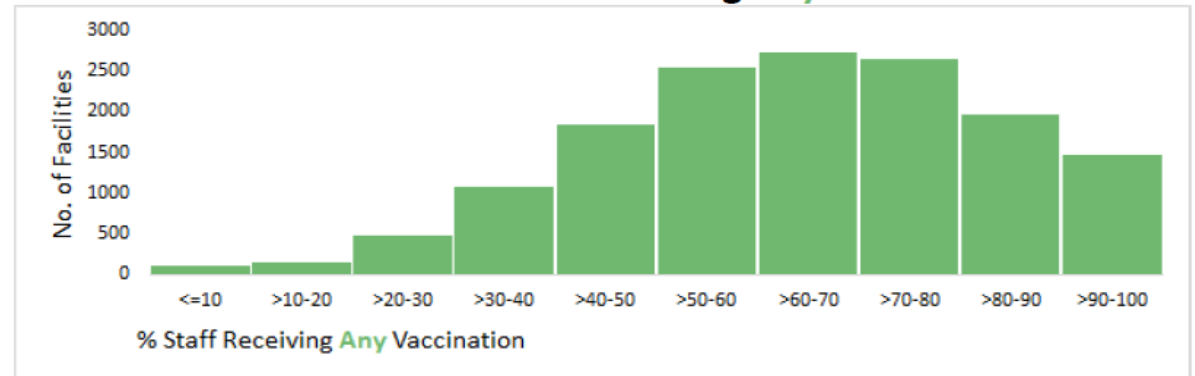


Among **14,978** facilities reporting*

HCP: 65.1%

Any COVID-19 vaccination
(1,143,536 HCP)

Distribution of SNF Staff¹ Receiving **Any** Vaccination

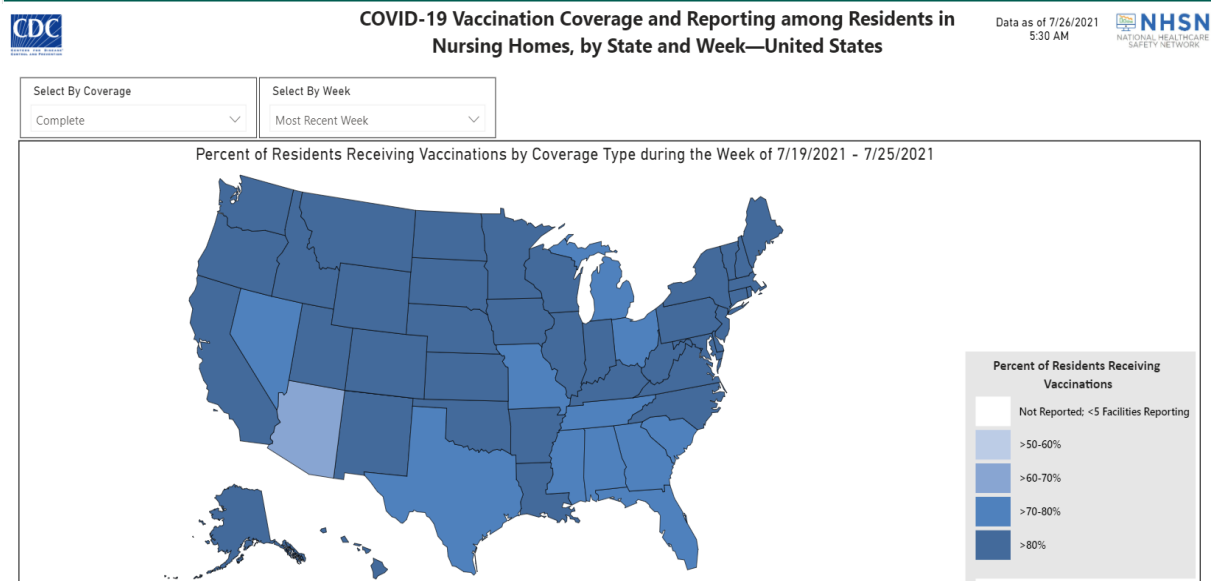


*Includes data collected for week of August 9 - 15, 2021 or the most recent week reported within 2 weeks



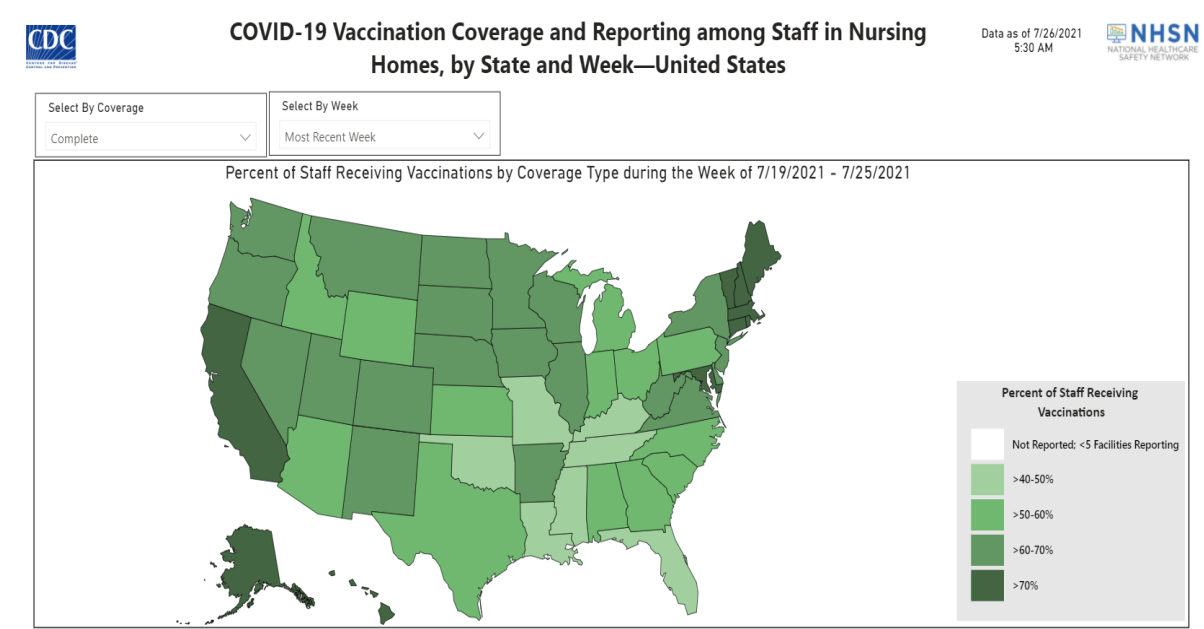
CDC Nursing Home COVID-19 Vaccine Dashboard

COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage and Reporting among Residents in Nursing Homes, by State and Week - United States



All data can be modified from week-to-week by facilities. **Exclusions:** For best epidemiological understanding, data that appear inconsistent with surveillance protocols are excluded. Vaccination coverage is calculated as the total number of residents vaccinated divided by (the total number of residents minus the number of residents with medical contraindications or exclusions to vaccination) multiplied by 100. Differences in how each facility implements this COVID-19 vaccination data collection, including variation in which staff collect the data, may affect facility reporting patterns. **Definitions:** **Partial vaccination:** 1 dose of vaccination series. **Complete vaccination:** All doses required for vaccination. **Data source:** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Healthcare Safety Network. **For more information:** <https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/ltc/weekly-covid-vac/index.html>. **Accessibility:** [Right click on the graph area to show as table]

COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage and Reporting among Staff in Nursing Homes, by State and Week - United States



All data can be modified from week-to-week by facilities. **Exclusions:** For best epidemiological understanding, data that appear inconsistent with surveillance protocols are excluded. Vaccination coverage is calculated as the total number of staff vaccinated divided by (the total number of staff minus the number of staff with medical contraindications or exclusions to vaccination) multiplied by 100. Differences in how each facility implements this COVID-19 vaccination data collection, including variation in which staff collect the data, may affect facility reporting patterns. **Definitions:** **Partial vaccination:** 1 dose of vaccination series. **Complete vaccination:** All doses required for vaccination. **Data source:** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Healthcare Safety Network. **For more information:** <https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/ltc/weekly-covid-vac/index.html>. **Accessibility:** [Right click on the graph area to show as table]



Increasing Staff COVID-19 Vaccination Protects Residents

COVID-19 in Residents of CMS-Certified Skilled Nursing Facilities
Crude Rate per 1,000 Resident Weeks, Stratified by Vaccination Coverage of Staff
Data from the two weeks ending 11 July 2021



Quartile of Staff Vaccination Coverage (percentile)	Staff Vaccination Coverage	Crude Rate of COVID in Residents per 1,000 Resident-weeks, for the two weeks ending 11 July	
1 (0 th -25 th)	0-44%	0.77	Highly significant reductions in incidence between these strata, $P<0.0001$
2 (26 th -50 th)	45-59%	0.54	
3 (51 st -75 th)	60-74%	0.26	Reduction between these strata not significant
4 (76 th -100 th)	75+%	0.31	
Overall, national		0.4	

- There was a 29% significant reduction in the case rate from Q1 to Q2 of staff vaccination coverage
- There was a 52% significant reduction in the case rate from Q2 to Q3 of staff vaccination coverage

Data limited to facilities reporting vaccination coverage.



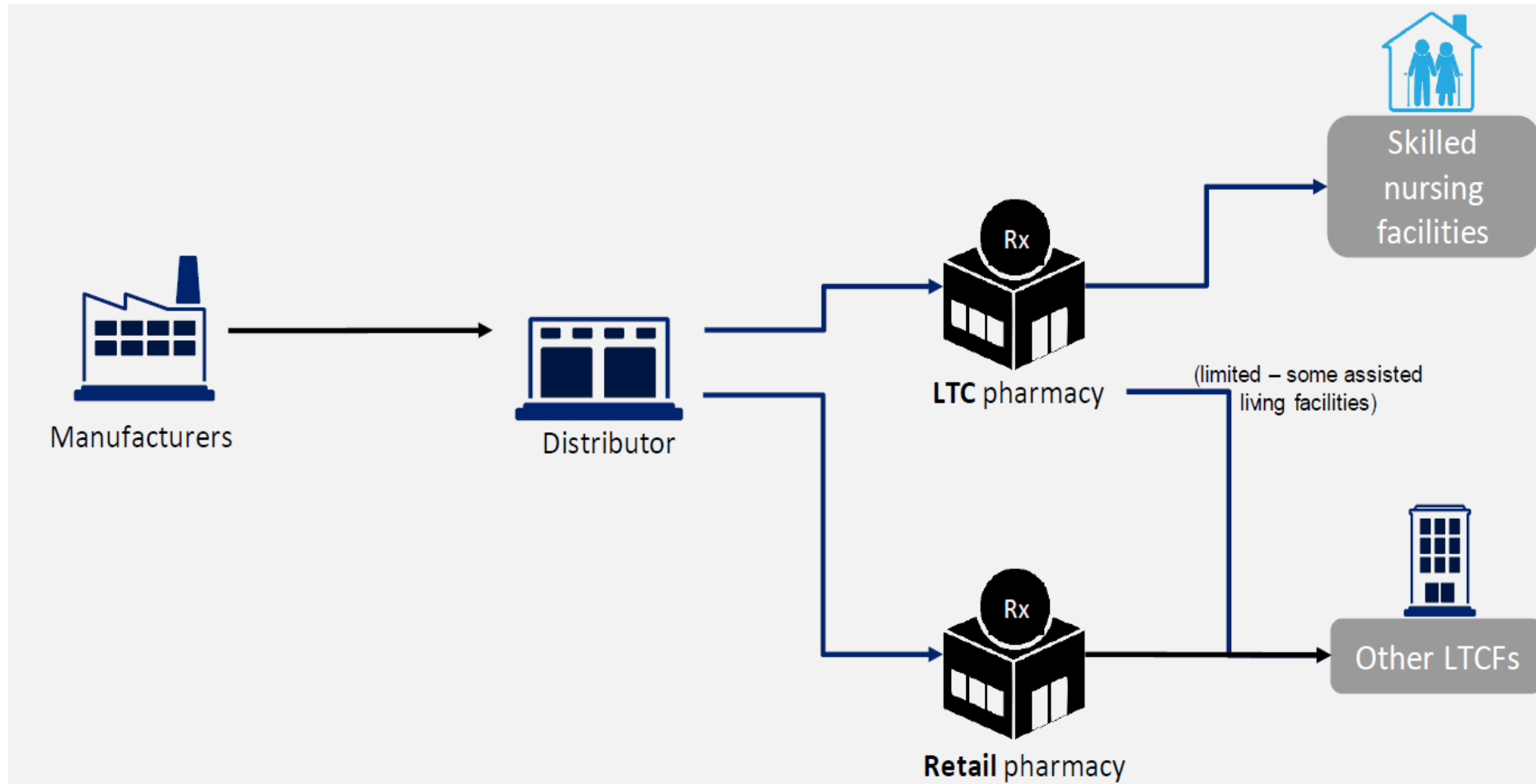
- Preliminary NHSN data analysis; includes facilities reporting both infection and vaccination data
- COVID-19 crude infection rate among residents are lowest in nursing homes with >75% staff vaccine coverage

Considerations for Federal LTCF Vaccine Access Program

- Significant vaccine supply and options for accessing doses
- Eligibility and interest primary vaccine doses or boosters will be broad
 - *LTCF vaccine access will be implemented in coordination with community-based vaccine programs*
- Long-term care facilities have experience working with pharmacy and jurisdictional partners to provide vaccine to residents and staff
 - *Program will build on existing infrastructure to maximize flexibility for providing the best options for residents and staff*



Strategies for Accessing COVID-19 Vaccine in LTCFs



Options for access:

- Pharmacy distributes, facility receives and administers
- Pharmacy provides onsite support for administration
- Residents travel to vaccine site (pharmacy or provider office)



State/local jurisdictions provide critical support to facilities, including monitoring progress and coordinating access to vaccine

Importance of Immunization Information Systems (IIS) Engagement by LTCFs

- Could IIS data assist LTC providers to track COVID-19 vaccination status for residents and staff, especially new admissions or hires?
- Could IIS data support jurisdictions to monitor vaccine administration rates in long-term care facilities?
- Could enrollment and reporting into IIS by long-term care facilities lead to increased adult immunization data for other vaccine-preventable infections (e.g., influenza, pneumococcus)?



COVID-19 vaccine education and access resources for LTCFs

Vaccines & Immunizations

CDC > COVID-19 Vaccination > Vaccination Toolkits

COVID-19 Vaccination

- Product Info by US Vaccine +
- Clinical Care +
- Provider Requirements and Support +
- Training and Education +
- Recipient Education +
- Planning & Partnerships +
- Vaccine Effectiveness Research
- Vaccination Toolkits** -

For Medical Centers, Clinics, and Clinicians



Long-Term Care Facility To 19 Vaccination at Your Facility

This toolkit provides long-term care facility (LTCF) administrative leadership with information and resources to help build vaccine confidence among healthcare personnel (HCP) and residents. You play a critical role in providing trusted information and ensuring high COVID-19 vaccination coverage in your facility.

Based on [recommendations](#) from the [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices \(ACIP\)](#), an independent panel of medical public health experts, [CDC recommends that HCP and LTCF residents](#)

Vaccines & Immunizations

CDC > COVID-19 Vaccination > Planning & Partnerships > Long-Term Care Pharmacy Partnerships

COVID-19 Vaccination

- Product Info by US Vaccine +
- Clinical Care +
- Provider Requirements and Support +
- Training and Education +
- Recipient Education +
- Planning & Partnerships** -

COVID-19 Vaccination Program Operational Guidance

Vaccine Allocation Transfer and Redistribution Guidance for IHS and Tribal Facilities

Ensuring Access to COVID-19 Vaccine in Long-Term Care Facilities

Long-term care facilities (LTCFs) provide a range of services, including medical and personal care, to adults who live independently. These types of facilities include, but are not limited to, skilled nursing facilities, nursing assisted living facilities, and other congregate living settings where most people receiving care/supervision are years of age. The communal nature of LTCFs and the population served (generally older adults often with underlying medical conditions) puts facility residents at increased risk of SARS-CoV-2 infection and severe illness from COVID-19.

The [Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care \(LTC\) Program](#) is facilitating on-site vaccination of residents at more than 65,000 enrolled LTCFs. Pharmacy partners participating in the program are conducting three on-site visits for every enrolled facility. Most clinics provided by this program will likely be completed by the end of March. As the Pharmacy Partnership for LTC program comes to an end, it is important to ensure LTCFs have continued access to vaccine for new or unvaccinated residents and staff.

Ways for Long-term Care Facilities to Continue Receive COVID-19 Vaccine

LTCF administrators and clinical leadership should consider the following options when making COVID-19 vaccine



Vaccines & Immunizations

CDC > COVID-19 Vaccination > Planning & Partnerships

COVID-19 Vaccination

- Product Info by U.S. Vaccine +
- Clinical Care +
- Provider Requirements and Support +
- Training and Education +
- Vaccine Recipient Education +
- Health Departments +
- Planning & Partnerships** -

COVID-19 Vaccination Program Operational Guidance

Vaccine Allocation Transfer and Redistribution Guidance for IHS and Tribal Facilities

Considerations for Planning School-Located Vaccination Clinics

Federal Retail Pharmacy Program -

Participating Pharmacies

FAQs about the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program

Retail Stories from the Field

Understanding the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program for COVID-19 Vaccination



Federal Retail Pharmacy Program Highlights

- Through Aug. 5, more than 108* million doses have been administered and reported by retail pharmacies across programs in the U.S., which includes 8 million doses administered through the Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care Program.
- A total of 21 retail pharmacy partners are participating in the program, with more than 41,000 locations online and administering doses nationwide. This includes long-term care pharmacies.
- Overall, 44% of the doses administered through the program have gone to a person from a racial or ethnic minority group (among people with known race or ethnicity).
- Many pharmacy partners are conducting pop-up clinics to increase access to vaccination nationwide.

*CPESN administrations are not included in this update due to a data error; the issue has been corrected and will be adjusted in subsequent updates.

Understanding the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program for COVID-19 Vaccination

[Long-Term Care Facility Toolkit: Preparing for COVID-19 Vaccination | CDC](#)

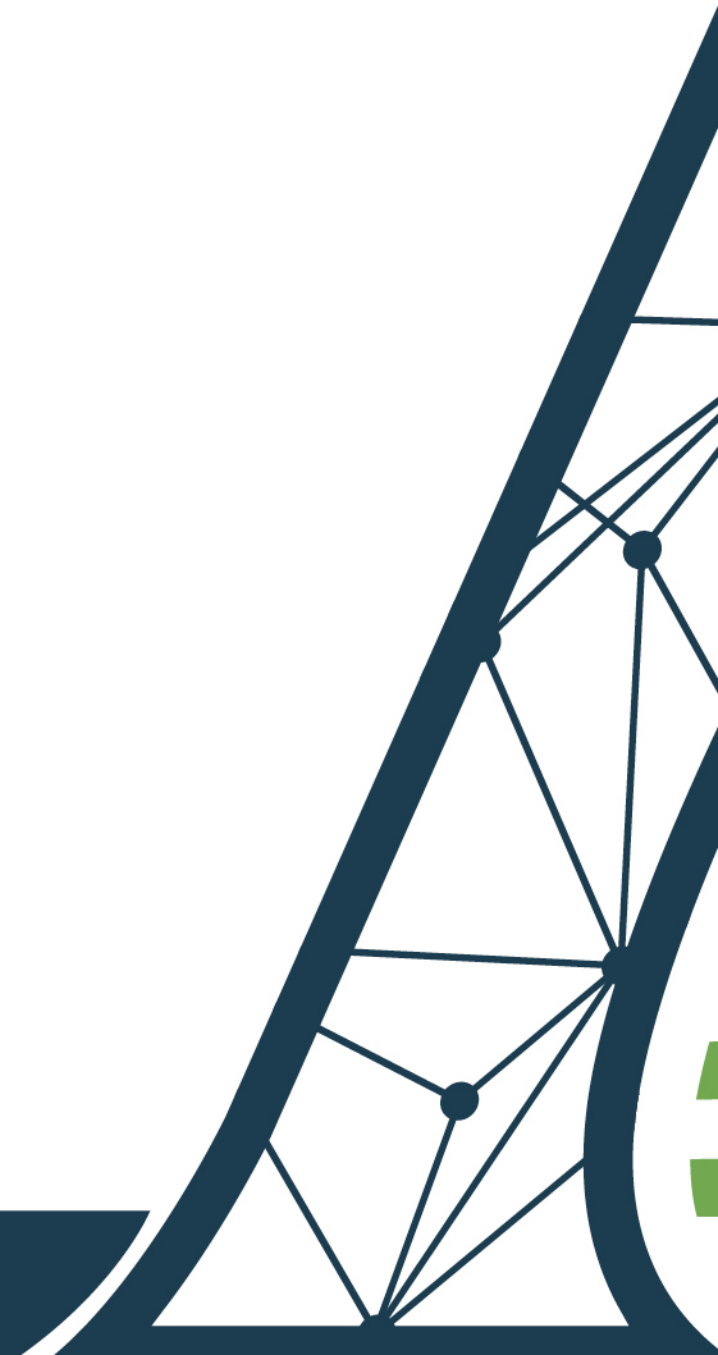
[Ensuring Access to COVID-19 Vaccine in Long-Term Care Facilities | CDC](#)

[COVID-19 Vaccination Federal Retail Pharmacy Partnership Program | CDC](#)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html>

Mary Woinarowicz

North Dakota



North Dakota Long-Term Care and IIS

Mary Woinarowicz, MA
AIRA August 2021 Discovery Session

BEFORE COVID

- As of September 30, 2020:
 - 102 of 215 LTC enrolled in IIS
 - 39 LTC submitting data to IIS in first 6 months of 2020
- LTC outreach
 - IIS training
 - Focused on benefits of IIS for LTC
 - Offered help creating flat file uploads
- 100% adult participation in NDIIS

LTC AND IIS

- North Dakota has skilled nursing, basic care, and assisted living facilities
 - Don't sub-categorize
 - All levels of facility are categorized as long-term care in the IIS
- LTC can have read/write access to the IIS
 - Are able to access to all immunization provider functionality
- LTC have access to records for individuals 14 years of age and older
- Can only access records for staff if administering vaccines to staff
 - Cannot use IIS to verify vaccination status solely for employment purposes

CHALLENGES – BEFORE COVID

- Staffing shortages
 - LTC that received IIS outreach reported having limited staff available to administer and report vaccines
- Staff turn-over
 - Staff that received IIS outreach and enrolled to use the IIS would leave and no transfer of information was occurring at the provider site
- Technical capacity for data exchange
 - ND health information exchange and IIS have tried working with LTC EHR systems but have had no success getting electronic data exchange enabled
 - Offered assistance to set up flat file export but no facilities accepted

COVID VACCINE

- Surveyed sites to assess how many were planning to vaccinate own residents and staff and how many wanted/needed outside assistance
 - Sites that did not respond to the survey were called
- Assessed LTC facility
 - storage capacity
 - administration capacity
 - data reporting capacity

CHALLENGES – COVID

- Staffing shortages
 - Staff not available for large-scale vaccination campaign
 - Not enough resources for vaccination and data reporting
- No electronic data exchange established
 - EHR systems not interested in setting up electronic data exchange
- Limited or no vaccine storage space
 - Staff had limited or no experience with vaccine storage and handling
 - Did not have ultra-cold storage
 - Had very limited refrigerator/freezer storage space that could not hold enough vaccine for facility staff and residents

SUCCESES

- LTC outreach
 - Worked through LTC association to reach all facilities in ND
- Contracted with North Dakota State University Center for Immunization Research and Education to conduct COVID vaccine education at LTC
- Developed a LTC-specific resource page on COVID vaccine website
 - Included educational materials specific for LTC

SUCCESES

- Made sure all 215 ND facilities had plan for their own vaccination program OR were partnered with a local pharmacy or local public health
 - Some pharmacies were participating in the Federal LTC-Pharmacy Partnership Program
 - Some pharmacies and LPH were enrolled to get vaccine from ND
- With new recommendation for additional doses and anticipated coming recommendation for booster doses, working to reach out to LTC again to make sure they have a vaccination plan or partner facility

SUCCESES

- Pharmacies that vaccinated LTC are electronically connected to IIS
- LPHU that vaccinated LTC have EHR electronically connected to IIS or used PrepMod to submit vaccination data to IIS
- Have 17 LTC enrolled as COVID vaccine providers
- Have 112 of 215 LTC enrolled in IIS
- 55 LTC submitting data to IIS since October 2020

LESSON LEARNED

- With outside vaccinators giving COVID vaccine to LTC residents and staff, all doses administered are entered under the vaccinator's IIS provider ID and not the LTC
 - Difficult to use the IIS to assess LTC COVID vaccination rates
- Used a weekly survey of LTC to assess and monitor LTC vaccination rates weekly
 - Able to track COVID vaccination rates for LTC residents and staff for all 215 ND LTC

RECOGNITION

- Recognize *COVID-19 Staff Vaccination Ambassadors* on COVID-19 vaccine website
- Publish list of ND organizations that have a COVID-19 staff vaccination rate of 75% or higher
- Done in coordination with Quality Improvement Organizations and the Great Plains Quality Innovation Network



Persistence and education are key. We also had a mandatory PowerPoint presentation and education meeting discussing the science and facts on the vaccines. We included testimonials from staff who are suffering from long hauler COVID symptoms, as well as those who had family members were with severe COVID. We also used resident testimonials on reasons why they hope staff will get vaccinated and what they are looking forward to post vaccine. We have actively worked with local pharmacies and the county to get people vaccinated when we don't have doses on hand. If someone wants a vaccine I will find them one.



THANK YOU



Mary Woinarowicz: mary.woinarowicz@nd.gov

Meghan Quinn

Maryland





SKILLED NURSING FACILITIES

Amended Directive Order 6/15/2021

Per the amended Secretary of [Health order](#), Skilled Nursing Facilities must be successfully registered in ImmuNet as a COVID-19 vaccine provider.

What does that mean for my facility?

Your point of contact will need to:

1. **Enroll in ImmuNet** - [Enrollment form](#)
2. **Apply for a Covid PIN through ImmuNet** ([Create a Non-VFC Profile](#))
<https://www.mdimmunet.org/prd-IR/portalHeader.do>
 - This requires the make and model of your cold storage unit capacity (*This is **not** asking how many vaccines you would like to order, just the capacity of the combination of the refrigerator/freezer unit*)
3. **Report to ImmuNet through an Electronic Health Record vendor (EHR)** -
 - a. Contact the EHR vendor to make sure that you are mapped correctly with the ImmuNet Org ID
 - b. Have your EHR send the below test message to ImmuNet
EHR Test Message: HL7 specification in the links below:
[HL7 - 2.5.1 Real-time Transfer Specifications](#)
https://mdimmunet.org/ImmuNet_COVID19_MDH-Required-Data-Elements.pdf (maryland.gov)

OR

4. **PrepMod** - If your EHR is [PointClickCare \(PCC\)](#)
 - a. Attend PrepModTraining (this is because PCC is not participating in reporting to ImmuNet)
The final training will be on **Friday, August 6th at 9am**
To register, please click on the link below:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYsceivrjwvEtEkEhoxstpmnm4RaBXJfQTs>
 - b. Identify the Super User (**Needs to attend the training**) and send the information to Georgette Harrison georgette.harrison@maryland.gov
Super User required contact information
Name:
Email address:



Phone number:
Position:
Facility name:
Facility Address:
ImmuNet Org ID:

What is ImmuNet?

ImmuNet is Maryland's HIPAA compliant secure vaccine database which will allow the following:

- Flexibility in ordering Covid-19 vaccine
- Helps in the prevention of missed/duplicate vaccinations records
- Access to a patient's vaccine history

FAQs

I am happy with my Pharmacy partnership. Does this mean I can't use their services?

Most SNFs have a contract with a pharmacy and will continue to use them. But to be compliant, per the Secretary's order they must be able to have the infrastructure to be independent of their pharmacy.

I already manually order/report to ImmuNet, does this apply to me?

*Yes, Covid-19 vaccine **cannot be manually entered** like other vaccines and must go through an EHR or PrepMod.*

What if I have multiple skilled nursing facilities?

Each one would need to register as a separate facility.

Does this apply to Assisted Living facilities?

No, the order is just for SNFs but ALF are encouraged to apply.

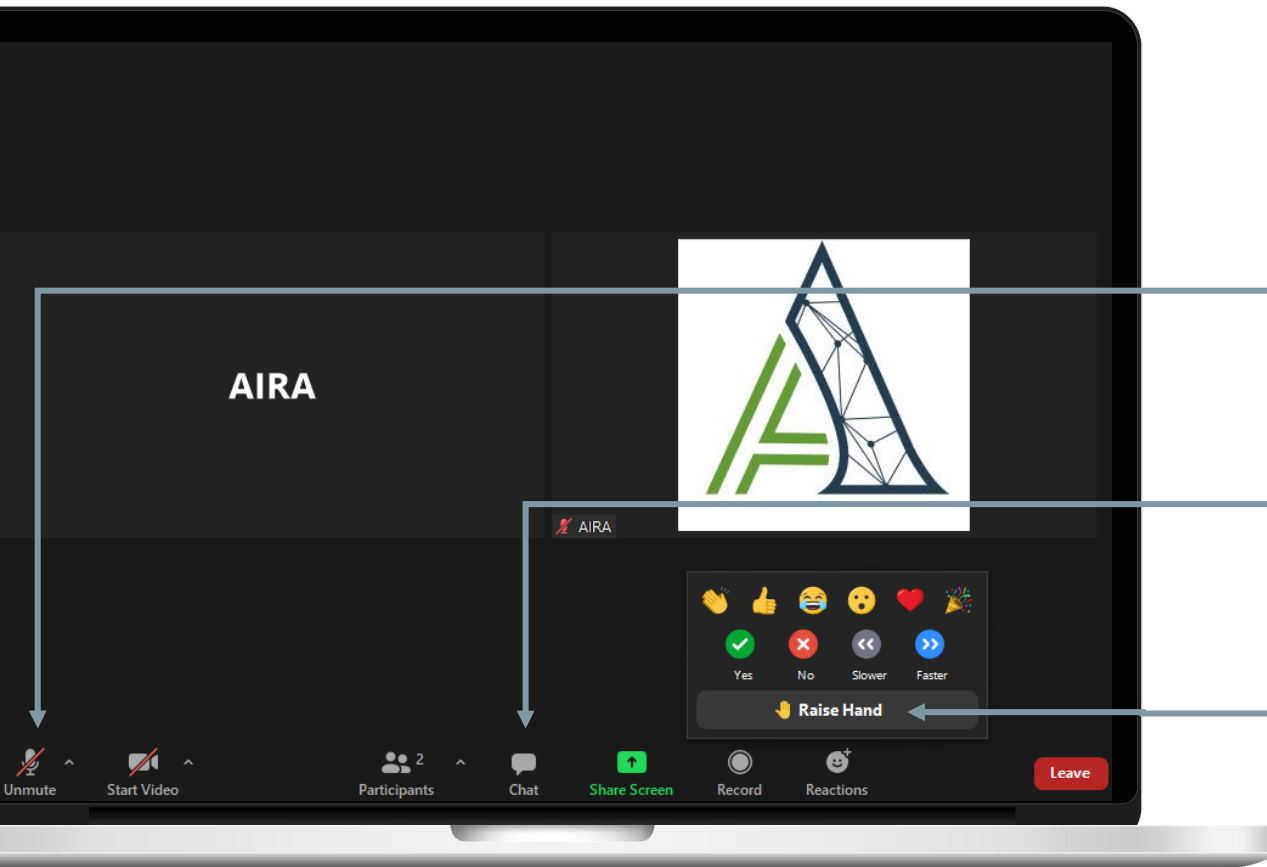
Contact information:

Meghan Quinn - Project lead - meghan.quinn@maryland.gov cell 603-568-3995

Georgette Harrison - Assistant lead - georgette.harrison@maryland.gov

Wesley Huntemann - Project Manager - wesley.huntemann@maryland.gov

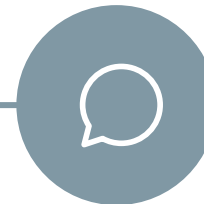
Question & Answer



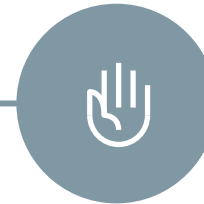
How do I ask a question?



Select the unmute icon and ask your question verbally.




Select the chat icon and type your question into the chat box.



Select the reactions icon, select "Raise Hand," and you will be called on.





Thank you to our presenters,
and thanks to all of you for
joining us!

Please complete a brief evaluation survey.

The next Discovery Session
will be on September 27, 2021