



GREATER NEW YORK HEALTH CARE FACILITIES ASSOCIATION

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Memo 24-27

To: Administrator, DNS, Medical Director, Infection Preventionist and QA Committee

From: Mary Gracey-White RN, Director of Regulatory Compliance and
Arlette A Drigpaul, MSN RN Infection Preventionist/Education Coordinator

Date: October 30, 2024

Re: Reporting Respiratory Illnesses and Immunizations

As a follow-up to the Association's 9/25/2024 Memo 24-22, we would like to remind you of the following respiratory virus illness and vaccination reporting requirements. **Unless otherwise indicated, reporting is mandatory.**

RESPIRATORY ILLNESSES	RESIDENT	STAFF
Covid-19	• HERDS Daily (M – F) • NHSN weekly • NORA – each new outbreak	• HERDS Daily (M – F) • NHSN weekly • NORA – each new outbreak
Influenza	• NORA – each new outbreak	• NORA – each new outbreak
Respiratory Syncytial Virus	• NORA – each new outbreak	• NORA – each new outbreak
RESPIRATORY IMMUNIZATIONS		
Covid-19	• HERDS Daily (M – F) • NHSN weekly	• HERDS Daily (M – F) • NHSN weekly
Influenza	• NHSN – optional reporting	• NYS HCP Immunization Report via HERDS – due annually (DOH will notify facility) • NHSN – annually (due by May 15, 2025)
RSV	• NHSN – optional reporting	• NHSN – optional reporting

We encourage you to strengthen your infection prevention and control (IPC) measures to prevent the transmission of respiratory illnesses. Suggestions include:

- Having hand sanitizers readily available in common areas and by elevator banks for use to staff, residents, and visitors to use;
- Educating staff, residents, and visitors about infection prevention and control measures such as hand hygiene, wearing a mask if exhibiting symptoms of respiratory infection, respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette.
- Rounding on unit by leadership staff to observe IPC practices, get feedback from staff, and perform just in time education as necessary.
- Encouraging visitors with respiratory symptoms to delay non-urgent visits until they are well;
- Posting signage in highly visible areas regarding common infection prevention measures (e.g., hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, stay home when sick, etc.);
- Taking measures to limit crowding in communal spaces (e.g., dining rooms, recreational areas, staff lounges, etc.);
- Considering broader use of source control when transmission rates in the surrounding community is high;
- Implementing appropriate transmission-based precautions and cohorting based on suspected diagnosis (e.g., Covid-19, Influenza, RSV);
- Monitoring healthcare personnel for respiratory illnesses. Ensure sick leave policies are non-punitive.
- Providing and encouraging receipt of recommended vaccines:
 - Covid 19: 2024-2025 formulary recommended for those age 6 months and older
 - Influenza: 2024-2025 formulary recommended for those age 6 months and older
 - RSV: single dose of any FDA-licensed RSV vaccine for all adults ages 75 and older and adults ages 60–74 at increased risk (e.g., nursing home residents) of severe RSV.

Please refer to the Association's website, [Home - GNYHCFA](#), for additional Infection Prevention and Control resources or contact us if you need additional information or support.

CDC (9/2024). [Long-term Care Component \(LTCF\) Reporting Guidance Document](#)

CDC (9/20/2024). [HCP Influenza Vaccination Summary Reporting in NHSN | NHSN | CDC](#)

CDC (10/2024). [12.3 Post Release Email](#)

NYSDOH (10/1998). [Outbreak Reporting in Health Care Facilities](#)

NYSDOH (9/30/2024). [2024-2025_reporting_advisory.pdf](#)