



GREATER NEW YORK HEALTH CARE FACILITIES ASSOCIATION

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Memo 24-33

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

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

Date: December 6, 2024

Re: Reporting Respiratory Illnesses and Immunizations via NHSN (National Health Safety Network)

On December 5, 2024, the Association participated in CMS' Open Forum call that highlighted the **upcoming changes to the NHSN respiratory virus illness and vaccination reporting requirements. Effective January 1, 2025, nursing homes will be required to electronically report information about Covid-19, Influenza, and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV).** This new standard replaces the current Covid-19 reporting standards for LTC facilities that sunset on December 31, 2024.

The CDC will be hosting a **training session on Wednesday, December 11, 2024** to review the upcoming changes. **Please have your facility staff responsible for NHSN reporting register [here](#).**

The new data elements for which NHSN reporting will be required on January 1, 2025, include:

- Facility census
- Resident vaccination status for COVID-19, influenza, and RSV,
- Confirmed resident cases of COVID-19, influenza, and RSV (overall and by vaccination status)
- Hospitalized residents with confirmed cases of COVID-19, influenza, and RSV (overall and by vaccination status).

On Friday, November 1, 2024, CMS also issued [Calendar Year \(CY\) 2025 Home Health Prospective Payment System Final Rule Fact Sheet \(CMS-1803-F\) | CMS](#) that stipulates that in the event of a declared national public health emergency (PHE) for an acute respiratory illness, there may be additional categories of reporting required, such as: reporting data up to a daily frequency and additional or modified data elements relevant to the PHE — including but not limited to relevant confirmed infections, supply inventory shortages, staffing shortages, and relevant medical countermeasures and therapeutic inventories.

We encourage you to ensure that staff who are responsible for reporting data have access to required reporting components within NHSN. See [here](#) for Administrator training and [here](#) on how to add a user.

We also continue to 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.
- Offering and providing recommended vaccines:
 - Covid 19: 2024-2025 formulary recommended for those age 6 months and older
 - Residents: within 14 days of admission/re-admission if not up-to-date
 - Staff: within 14 days of hire if not up-to-date
 - 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.

References/Resources

CDC (12/3/2024). [LTCF | Respiratory Pathogens and Vaccination Module | NHSN | CDC](#)
 CMS (11/1/2024). [Calendar Year \(CY\) 2025 Home Health Prospective Payment System Final Rule Fact Sheet \(CMS-1803-F\) | CMS](#)
 CDC (10/2023). [LTCF Component How to Add User](#)
 CDC (9/20/2024). [HCP Influenza Vaccination Summary Reporting in NHSN | NHSN | CDC](#)
 NYSDOH (10/1998). [Outbreak Reporting in Health Care Facilities](#)
 NYSDOH (9/30/2024). [2024-2025 reporting advisory.pdf](#)
 CDC (4/4/2024). [NHSN Administrator Training | NHSN](#)

Thank You,
 GNYHCFA Team