

GREATER NEW YORK HEALTH CARE FACILITIES ASSOCIATION

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MEMO 23-07

TO: Administrator, DON, Infection Preventionists

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

DATE: May 15, 2023

**RE: Updates to the NHSN LTCF Covid-19 Module Surveillance Pathways and Covid-19
Surveillance Post Public Health Emergency (PHE)**

As you may be aware, there will be several revisions to the NHSN LTCF COVID-19 Module Surveillance Pathways with the upcoming NHSN release planned for June 2023. CDC has indicated that the report will be scaled down.

We encourage you to plan to attend a training session, hosted by the CDC, to learn about how data entry forms will change and receive instructions for accurate reporting. Additional time will be reserved for questions and answers at the end of each training session.

Date/Time: June 1, 2023; 2-3PM EST

Register: [HERE](#)

Facilities are still required to complete the NHSN Covid-19 reporting weekly; there is no stop date for this reporting. Facilities are also required to complete the NYS daily HERDS Survey and NORA report when an outbreak occurs.

Additionally, CDC's Covid Data Tracker will no longer monitor Covid community transmission levels and community level metrics. Instead, surveillance indicators will focus on hospital admission levels and the percentage of all Covid-19 associated deaths. Emergency department visits and percentage of positive SARS-CoV-2 laboratory tests results will help detect early changes in trends.

The federal government has also announced that the mandate for Covid-vaccines for healthcare workers will end with the PHE. NYSDOH has still not released any updated guidance regarding healthcare personnel Covid-19 vaccinations. GNYHCFA has communicated with the NYSDOH regarding this and other inquiries as the PHE has ended. The department has stated it will release a Health Advisory addressing the end of the PHE. Facilities are still required to continue to educate and offer the Bivalent Covid Vaccine to staff and residents in order for them to be up to date with CDC's Covid vaccine recommendations. Per NYS, facilities will have to respond to COVID-19 cases as required by State and Federal requirements in a similar manner that they have always had to respond to outbreaks of infectious disease in their facilities (e.g., notify resident and/or family, cohort appropriately, initiate appropriate isolation precautions, complete NORA report, weekly NHSN report).

Lastly, as of May 12th flu is still considered widespread in NYS ([Influenza Surveillance Report \(ny.gov\)](#)), therefore, at this time only employees who have received a flu vaccine may remove masks as source control. GNYHCFA will continue to follow up and provide all updated information as received. Please contact the Association if you have questions.