



GREATER NEW YORK HEALTH CARE FACILITIES ASSOCIATION

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MEMO 23-23

TO: Administrator, DON, Director of Building, Social Work & QA Committee Members

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

DATE: September 6, 2023

RE: NYSDOH Webinar Recap– Covid-19 Prevention and Control Webinar

Earlier today the Association participated in the New York State Department of Health “Nursing Homes: COVID-19 Prevention and Control Webinar”. Highlights include:

1. Statistics

- As of 9/5/2023,
 - 163/603 (27%) nursing homes in NYS have reported Covid+ cases via the HERDS survey. The Department notes there has been a steady increase in Covid-19 cases since July.
 - 880/96,353 confirmed Covid-19 residents (19% ↑ from 9/1)
 - 2,343 residents on isolation, includes Covid+ and exposed residents (46% ↑ from 9/1)

2. Core Principles of Covid-19 Infection Prevention and Control

- Screening (passive and/or active screening of residents, staff & visitors)
- Hand hygiene (alcohol-based hand rub is preferred)
 - Single most effective way of preventing the spread of infections.
- Face covering or mask to cover the mouth and nose in accordance with CDC recommendations.
 - Differentiate between source control vs PPE
- Visual alerts and signage
 - Post in highly visible areas such as front desk, lobby, elevator banks, break rooms, common areas, locker rooms
 - Examples include signage for hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, staying home when sick
- Environmental cleaning and disinfection
 - Ensure use of an appropriate hospital grade EPA-registered product
- Appropriate source control
 - Example includes masks and eye protection.
- Effective cohorting

- Resident and staff testing following nationally accepted (CDC) standards
[Infection Control: Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 \(SARS-CoV-2\) | CDC](#)

3. Covid-19 Treatment

- Nursing home providers should review information on the use of antiviral medications for treatment of mild-to-moderate Covid-19. Consult with your Medical Director.

4. Staying Up to Date with Vaccines

- **Covid-19**
 - New monovalent vaccines that offer protection against the XBB strain will potentially be made available in late September to early October.
 - At present, there is no recommendation for intervals between the bivalent and upcoming monovalent vaccine. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) are scheduled to meet on Sept 12, 2023 and will hopefully shed some light on Covid vaccine recommendations and timing.
- **Influenza, 2023-2024 Season**
 - September and October are the best months for most people to get vaccinated against influenza
 - CDC continues to recommend annual vaccination for those age 6 months and older
 - The 2023-2024 season U.S. flu vaccines will contain an updated influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 component
 - People with egg allergy may receive any flu vaccine (egg-based or non- egg based) that is otherwise appropriate for their age and health status.
 - [2023-2024 CDC Flu Vaccination Recommendations Adopted | CDC](#)
- **Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)**
 - Adults 60 years of age and older may receive a single dose of RSV vaccine using shared clinical decision-making with their healthcare provider.
 - [RSV Vaccination: What Older Adults 60 Years of Age and Over Should Know | CDC](#)

5. Communication and Education

- Create clear, understandable and operational policies and procedures
- Communicate policies and procedures to all levels of staff
 - Periodically assess staff knowledge of processes
- Provide visitor education.
- Utilize available resources to provide education (for example, the resident council)
- Continually evaluate facility practices and revise accordingly
- Communicate with NYS regional epidemiologist as needed

If you have any questions, reach out to covidnursinghomeinfo@health.ny.gov or icp@health.ny.gov.