



GREATER NEW YORK HEALTH CARE FACILITIES ASSOCIATION

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MEMO 23-24

TO: Administrator, DON, Medical Directors, Infection Preventionist, Nurse Managers & QA Committee Members

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

DATE: September 15, 2023

RE: NYSDOH DAL 23-15, Infection Prevention and immunization Updates

As you may already be aware, the NYS DOH has released DAL 23-15 ([HERE](#)) to remind nursing homes to proactively offer and document efforts to ensure that all residents and staff (including contract staff) who are eligible and consent to Covid-19 vaccination remain up to date with all CDC recommended Covid-19 vaccine doses. Consistent with regulation, nursing homes must:

- Offer all consenting, unvaccinated existing personnel and residents an opportunity to receive the first or any recommended next or booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. [10 NYCRR § 66-4.1(a)]
- Ensure that all new personnel, including employees and contract staff, and every new resident and resident readmitted to the nursing home, has an opportunity to receive the first or any recommended next or booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine within fourteen (14) days of having been hired by or admitted or readmitted to the nursing home. [10 NYCRR § 66-4.1(b)]
- Post conspicuous signage throughout the nursing home, including at points of entry and exit and each residential hallway, reminding personnel and residents that the facility offers COVID-19 vaccination. [10 NYCRR § 66-4.1(c)(1)]
- Provide all personnel and residents who decline to be vaccinated a written affirmation for their signature, which indicates that they were offered the opportunity for a COVID-19 vaccination but declined. Such affirmation must state that the signatory is aware that, if they later decide to be vaccinated for COVID-19, it is their responsibility to request vaccination from the facility. The facility shall maintain signed affirmations on file at the facility and make such forms available at the request of the Department. [10 NYCRR § 66- 4.1(c)(2)].

It is recommended that if you have not already done so, begin to obtain immunization consents for residents, especially Influenza, Covid-19, and RSV. Of significance, on Sept 12th ACIP has recommended the new monovalent Covid-19 vaccines targeting the XBB.1.5 strain which the CDC is expected to give final approval for later this week ([CDC Recommends Updated COVID-19 Vaccine for Fall/Winter Virus Season | CDC Online Newsroom | CDC](#)). Egg allergy is no longer a contraindication for receiving the flu vaccine ([Summary of Recommendations \(cdc.gov\)](#)). The RSV vaccine ([RSV \(Respiratory Syncytial Virus\) Immunizations | CDC](#)) is recommended for those age 60 and older, with priority given to those with

increased risk for RSV (e.g. nursing home residents). Ensure that consents/declinations are in the medical record and care plans are updated to reflect immunization status. Equally important is to offer immunizations to staff and having a method to track those who have received and those who have declined vaccinations.

The CDC will be hosting a live **webinar** on **Sept 18th** at 2PM EST (register [here](#)) on Up to Date Vaccination Status: Surveillance Definition Change for LTCFs (CDC/NHSN) which will take effect beginning Sept 25th, 2023 on NHSN. On **Sept 19th** at 7PM The NY Medical Directors Association (NYMDA) will be hosting a **webinar** on Covid-19 Therapeutics (register [here](#)). Additionally, the **CDC** will be hosting a **COCA Call** on **Sept 19th** from 2-3PM EST (webinar [link](#)) on Preparing for the Upcoming Respiratory Virus Season: Recommendations for Influenza, Covid-19, and RSV Vaccines for Older Adults.

October 15 -21 is **International Infection Prevention Week (IIPW)**. This year's theme is "*Celebrating Fundamentals of Infection Prevention*." Use this time to review your facility's infection prevention and control program, review and update, if necessary, infection prevention and control policies, and provide education to staff, residents, and families on the basics of infection prevention and control. Take advantage of the **virtual infection prevention conference** hosted jointly by the NYS Chapters of APIC on **October 19th** from 8:30AM to 4:30PM (register [here](#)).

Please note, GNYHCFA has become aware that during recertification surveys, **surveyors are requesting proof of specialized training infection prevention and control**. Per the State Operations Manual, the person(s) in this role need to complete this training *prior* to assuming the role.

Kindly share this memo with your Medical Directors, Infection Preventionists and Nurse Managers.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to the Association if you have any questions.