

Great Plains QIN Key Resources for Nursing Home | COVID-19 | Infection Control Vaccinations



[Great Plains Quality Innovation Network Nursing Home Quality Tools and Resources](#)

Infection Control Training/Resources

Provide regular and frequent infection control training to all staff including administration. Implementing a schedule for these types of training can assist with planning. For access to on-line and in-person training opportunities, the facility may contact Great Plains Quality Innovation Network or local and/or state Health Department for recommendations or take advantage of federal options, including those listed below:

COVID Specific

[CMS Targeted COVID-19 Training for Frontline Nursing Home Staff and Management](#)

(QSEP Scenario-based Training)

- ✓ Frontline staff – hand hygiene and PPE; screening and surveillance; cleaning the nursing home; cohorting; caring for residents with dementia in a pandemic
- ✓ Management – five frontline staff modules; basic infection control; emergency preparedness and surge capacity; addressing emotional health of residents and staff; telehealth for nursing homes; getting your vaccine delivery system ready
- ✓ [User Guide](#)
- ✓ [User Guide - Spanish Version](#)
- ✓ [QSEP Group Training Facilitator Guide](#)
- ✓ [Kudos Kit](#)
 - Press Release Template
 - Printable Posters
 - Printable Badges
 - Sample Social Media Messages & Graphics
- ✓ [CMS COVID-19 Nursing Home Training – QSEP Access Tutorial](#)

[CMS-CDC Fundamentals of COVID-19 Prevention for Nursing Home Management](#)

CDC Training Videos for Front Line Long-Term Care Staff:

- ✓ [Clean Hands: Combat COVID-19](#)
- ✓ [Sparkling Surfaces: Stop COVID-19's Spread](#)
- Ensure staff and leadership are familiar with CDC's guidelines for routine infection prevention and control practices in nursing homes. Information on performing COVID-19 viral testing and guidance to implement select infection prevention and control practices based on their individual circumstances can be found within the CDC's [Interim IPC Recommendations for HCP During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#).

General Infection Control & Prevention

- [Infection Control Checklist](#)
- [SPICE Excel Template Risk Assessment for LTC](#)
- [CDC Project Firstline](#)

- ✓ [North Dakota Project Firstline](#)
- ✓ [South Dakota Project Firstline](#)
- [NDSU Center for Immunization Research & Education](#)
- [Wheel of Infection Control Game](#)

Personal Protecting Equipment (PPE)

Ensure that [donning](#) and [doffing](#) of PPE take place in separate areas on each resident cohort unit (e.g., red, yellow, green; or, COVID-positive, observation and COVID-negative) and that staff are adequately trained in the [donning and doffing of all PPE](#) to prevent contamination when donning/doffing. Access general guidance, posters, and training videos on PPE donning and doffing [here](#).

- Utilize [AHRQ Respirator Fit Testing Document](#) to ensure you have the right respirator for protection.
- [Donning and Doffing Paper Doll Tabletop Exercise](#)

PPE 101 – PPE 104 Modules with Continuing Education (CE):

- [PPE 101: The Basics of Standard Precautions](#)
Identifies the key principles of Standard Precautions practice in the healthcare environment and reviews appropriate and effective PPE use.
- [PPE 102: Transmission-Based Precautions](#)
Describes the different types of Transmission-Based Precautions, the PPE that should be used for these enhanced precautions and how to implement and apply these practices.
- [PPE 103: Training Frontline Health Care Professionals and Auditing Practices](#)
Reviews strategies to coach and train frontline healthcare professionals in the use of PPE and strategies for auditing appropriate PPE use to identify gaps and improve PPE adherence.
- [PPE 104: Auditing and Feedback of PPE Use](#)
Reviews strategies for healthcare precautions and auditing appropriate PPE use to prevent Healthcare- Associated Infections (HAIs).

[PPE Competency Validation \(NC SPICE\)](#)

Hand Hygiene

Ensure that healthcare personnel clean their hands throughout resident care, including:

- Before contact with a resident, even if gloves will be worn
- After contact with the resident
- After contact with blood, body fluids, or contaminated surfaces or equipment
- Before performing an aseptic task, such as emptying a foley catheter
- Immediately after removing gloves

Failure to clean hands at appropriate times may allow illnesses including COVID-19 to spread among residents. Information about hand hygiene in healthcare settings is available on the CDC [Clean Hands Count](#) website.

[Access this training resource for hand hygiene observations.](#)

- ✓ [CDC Hand Hygiene Videos](#)
- ✓ [Hand Hygiene Competency Validation \(NC SPICE\)](#)

Cleaning | Disinfection

Thoroughly and frequently clean high-touch surfaces to reduce contamination of environmental surfaces and transmission of pathogens, including COVID-19.

- Assess access to cleaning/disinfection products and build into staff workflow. [CDC training video for staff](#)
- [CDC Best Practices for Environmental Cleaning in Healthcare Facilities](#)
- [List of disinfectants that can be used for COVID-19](#)
- [CDC Cleaning, Disinfecting, and Ventilation](#)

Auditing | Surveillance

Develop a system for observing and providing feedback to staff on adherence to standard IPC measures, including hand hygiene, cleaning and disinfection of shared resident equipment and correct use of PPE. Additional healthcare personnel - such as CNAs, environmental services workers or nursing managers may be useful to help make observations along with the IP.

Use data collected from observations to inform selection and delivery of education that improves compliance. Aggregating auditing data can identify common characteristics that might predict infection control gaps in your nursing home.

- Great Plains QIN created a [Performance Tracker](#) to assist in aggregating your auditing data. [Access a video tutorial](#) on how to utilize this tool (7:16 minutes).

The top three risk areas for spread of infection are PPE Donning/Doffing, Hand Hygiene and Environmental Cleaning. Environmental cleaning is a fundamental intervention for infection prevention and control; see [Best Practices for Environmental Cleaning in Healthcare Facilities](#).

Audit environmental cleaning practices. Multiple options exist for auditing the cleaning and disinfection of environmental surfaces and resident care equipment. Auditing may occur through direct observation of staff while cleaning and disinfecting. Additionally, tools such as fluorescent markers or clear laundry detergent with optical brightening agents (fluorescent under a black light) can be an inexpensive way to evaluate the cleaning process.

Staff can perform audits of high touch surfaces like doorknobs, light switches, bedside tables, and railings, among other surfaces. A small amount of fluorescent marker (or laundry detergent) can be applied to these surfaces and allowed to dry. After the room is cleaned, staff can observe these surfaces with a black light to evaluate the effectiveness of the cleaning process. If the surfaces are cleaned adequately, the facility can use this practice as an educational tool with staff to improve practices. [CDC checklist to aid in cleaning audits](#)

- [AHRQ Competency Check -vs- Observational Audit](#). This document explains the difference between the competency check you complete to meet education and regulatory compliance for your nursing home and the observational audits that you complete as part of the ongoing Quality Assurance Performance Improvement (QAPI) process.
- [AHRQ Observational Audits Tool](#). Audits should focus on one aspect of infection prevention at a time, for example, hand hygiene, personal protective equipment (PPE) use, or environmental cleaning. This tool will help with observational auditing, so you have useful data to guide improvement.
- [Auditing Strategies to Improve Infection Prevention Processes in Nursing Homes](#) | Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

Root Cause Analysis

A structured team process that assists in identifying underlying factors or causes of an adverse event or near-miss. Understanding the contributing factors or cause of a system failure can help develop actions that sustain the correction. The [Fishbone](#) (Cause and Effect diagram) can help with brainstorming to identify possible causes of a problem. The [Five Whys](#) is a simple problem-solving technique that helps to get to the root of a problem quickly.

Vaccinations – Including COVID-19, Influenza and Pneumococcal

The [Great Plains Quality Innovation Network Nursing Home Vaccination Change Package](#) was developed to guide nursing homes in improving vaccination rates among residents and staff. The change package identifies barriers and challenges to vaccination and provides interventions supported by evidence-based tools and resources to improve vaccination quality measures and rates.

CDC's National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN)

NHSN provides healthcare facilities, such as LTC, with customized systems to track infections and prevention process measures in a systematic way. Tracking allows facilities to identify problems, improve care, and determine progress toward national healthcare-associated infection goals.

The [NHSN Long-term Care Facility Component](#) is supporting the nation's COVID-19 response through the COVID-19 Module for LTCFs. The CDC [COVID-19 Module](#) include nursing homes/skilled nursing, long-term care for the developmentally disabled and assisted living facilities.

[CDC/NHSN Weekly Surveillance for Residents & HCP COVID-19 Vaccinations](#) Long-term care facilities track weekly COVID-19 vaccination data for residents and healthcare personnel through NHSN.

Healthcare Staff Shortage | Exposure Plan

Ensure that your facility has a plan in the event of healthcare personnel shortages. Healthcare personnel shortages may arise due to illness, staff no longer reporting to work and personal conflicts (i.e., childcare or elder care). The CDC has created guidance to assist healthcare facilities with [mitigating staffing shortages](#).

Supporting Staff

Support staff mental, emotional, and physical health through ongoing expressions of appreciation and facilitating access to resources that address stress and burnout.

- [AHCA/NCAL's Tips on Supporting Staff](#)
- [CDC - Support for Public Health Workers and Health Professionals](#)

★ Visit the [Great Plains QIN Web site](#) for more long-term care infection control and vaccination resources.



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