



## New! Great Plains QIN Campaign | Become a COVID-19 Vaccination Booster Champion!



Great Plains QIN has launched a new campaign to celebrate and recognize North Dakota and South Dakota organizations with high staff COVID-19 booster vaccination rates - **COVID-19 Staff Vaccination Booster Champions**. *Organizations will be considered a Booster Champion when 75% or greater of their staff have received the first booster.* A Booster Champion Certificate and a customizable press release is provided to Booster Champions to be used with local media, shared on the organization's website or social media platform and in an organization's newsletter. Access the current list of [Booster Champions](#) and their shared best practices.

To participate, submit current staff booster rate [here](#).



Great Plains QIN's [COVID-19 Staff Vaccination Ambassador Campaign](#) was recently retired. Congratulations to the 119 community partners and nursing homes who reached the 75% vaccination mark and agreed to be listed on GPQIN's website and for the sharing of tips and best practices to increase vaccination rates.

## Education and Resources

[Visit our GPQIN Event Calendar](#) for upcoming and past events

### Thursday's Boost with Your QIO | Thursdays at 4:00 pm CT

A 30-minute informal education and office hours format session - for ND & SD nursing homes only. **Only need to register once.**

[Register Here](#)

**Palliative Care in the Dakotas**  
- Webinar hosted by Great Plains QIN  
May 17, 2022  
3:00 - 4:00 pm CT

## "You" Make a Difference | Celebrate Nurses & Long-Term Care in May



*"Here's a shout out to my fellow nursing colleagues, family members, and lifelong friends who are part of the most "heroic of professions". I was a 1983 Presentation College Graduate that wore a white uniform and a lovely white nursing hat back in the day! If the truth be told, I loved wearing the crisp white uniform; however, not so much the hat and was glad when the hat was phased out. Many things have changed in*

*the past 39 years, but compassion, dedication and caring remain. I am proud to be in this profession and working with long term care facilities!*

*In May, let us do our part to celebrate nurses and all long-term care staff everywhere for all they do to care for our loved ones and our community members. This has never been more evident than through this pandemic. These are the people that not only provided care but stepped in and served as family members and friends to ensure residents had social connections.*

## [Details and Registration](#)

### Healing and Improving Ourselves and Our Places of Work as We Recover from COVID-19

Hosted by Great Plains QIN  
May 20, 2022

11:00 am – 12:00 pm CT

[Details and Registration](#)

[Great Plains QIN Nursing Home Quality Webpage](#)

[CMS Toolkit on State Actions to Mitigate COVID-19 Prevalence in Nursing Homes](#)

[The National Partnership – Dementia Care Resources](#)

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

Scenario-based online trainings - available on-demand

*Links to toolkits and promotional ideas you can use in your celebrations are included below!" - Lori Hintz, RN, Quality Improvement Advisor, Great Plains QIN*

[American Nurses Association Toolkit](#) - May 6 - 12, 2022

[National Skilled Nursing Facility Week](#) - May 8 - 14, 2022

### GPQIN Updates Vaccination Tracking Log to Include 2<sup>nd</sup> COVID Booster and Pneumococcal Vaccines (PCV15, PCV20)

Great Plains QIN updated the [GPQIN Electronic Vaccination Tracking Log](#) to include the **2<sup>nd</sup> COVID-19 Booster, Pneumococcal Vaccines PCV15 and PCV20**. This Excel tracking log designed as a "Quick Look See" for the MDS person and/or infection preventionist to access a listing of residents and their vaccination status for Influenza, Pneumococcal and COVID-19. The tool includes sections (tabs) for several years (2021 -2024) and a cumulative 'At a Glance' tab which has a yearly graphing feature for vaccinations given at your facility. The resource section (tab) was also updated to include booster recommendations and updates.

*Please note: This is not to be confused with the NHSN Tracking Sheets for COVID 19 vaccinations (resident and healthcare worker) that you may be using for your NHSN data inputs.*

### Family & Visitor COVID-19 Policy Letter Template Available To Customize

A nursing home recently expressed a need for a document they could share with family members and visitors regarding their COVID-19 policies. This letter emphasizes the need for safety and includes infection prevention practices in place to help keep residents and staff members safe and healthy.

The letter can be customized to meet a facility's needs and relay prevention practices visitors are expected to follow (hand washing, distance requests, wearing of masks, etc.) It can be included in admission packets, posted on social media pages, shared in an organization's newsletter or distributed to the local media. The letter includes helpful tips and reminders as to the 'why' some of these interventions are in place; simply to keep residents safe. Feel free to customize to reflect your center's policies. [Access the letter template here.](#)

### Top 10 Cited F-tags in 2022 as of March 31

Regulatory preparation remains a top priority for leaders in skilled nursing facilities especially as annual surveys have begun once again. **The top ten frequently cited F-Tags nationally as of March 31, 2022, include:**

- F0884 - Reporting to National Health Safety Network
- F0880 - Infection Prevention & Control
- F0689 - Free of Accident Hazards/Supervision/Devices
- F0684 - Quality of Care

- F0812 - Food Procurement, Store/Prepare/Serve Sanitary
- F0677 - ADL Care Provided for Dependent Residents
- F0656 - Develop/Implement Comprehensive Care Plan
- F0761 - Label/Store Drugs and Biologicals
- F0686 - Treatment/Svcs to Prevent/Heal Pressure Ulcer
- F0609 - Reporting of Alleged Violations

Updated 4/7/22 –

CMS [Survey Resources with Staff Vaccine Documents](#). This download link also includes the Critical Care Pathways which acts as a guide to the state surveyors. ***Being familiar with CMS's survey resources will assist you in compliance and being survey ready because being ready is a 24-hour/365 days a year task.***

More survey readiness tips: [Four Survey Readiness Activities to Try Now- Post-Acute Advisor Updated 5/10/2019](#)

## Make Sure Your Influenza and Pneumococcal Vaccination Quality Measures Data is Current! Strive for 100%

The Vaccination Quality Measures (Influenza and Pneumococcal) are the easiest to impact when a facility is looking to improve their Resident Care QMs. **You** have control to assure that 100% of your residents meet the QM as being “assessed and appropriately given” the vaccination.

**The Influenza QMs are calculated only once per year!** The calculation begins on July 1 of a given year and ends on June 30 of the subsequent year and reports data for residents who were in the facility for at least one day during the target period of October 1 through March 31. **The rate will remain on [CMS Care Compare](#) for the entire next year.**

Now is the time to assure the Influenza QM and Pneumococcal QM accurately reflects the vaccination status of your residents. Great Plains QIN has resources to assist you in getting the highest vaccination rate possible – **100%!**

- [Influenza Quality Measure Coding Tip \(GPQIN\)](#)
- [Pneumococcal Quality Measure Coding Tips \(GPQIN\)](#)
- [Vaccination Quality Measure Checklist \(GPQIN\)](#)
- [Electronic Vaccination Tracking Log \(GPQIN\) -updated 4/28/22](#)
- [Nursing Home Vaccination Change Package \(GPQIN\)](#)
- [Nursing Home Quality Measure Video Series \(GPQIN\)](#)
- [Improve Your Vaccination Quality Measures – Grab the Low Hanging Fruit Webinar - May 25, 2021](#)

## Returning to Pre-COVID-19 Policies for Nursing Homes – Certain Public Health Emergency Declaration Waivers Ending

CMS has made an [Update to COVID-19 Emergency Declaration Blanket Waivers for Specific Providers](#) via the QSO-22-15-NH & NLTC and LSC on April 7, 2022. Facility types affected are skilled nursing facilities (SNF)/ nursing facilities (NF), inpatient hospices, intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual

disabilities (ICF/IIDs) and end stage renal disease (ESRD) facilities. Waivers will remain in effect for hospitals and critical access hospitals. There are two groups of waivers that are ending 30 days from issuance and 60 days from issuance of this guidance. The timeframes give providers and state agencies time to adjust their operations to reinstated CMS requirements.

**Emergency Declaration Blanket Waivers Ending for SNF/ NF's 30 days from Publication of this Memorandum – Terminates May 7, 2022**

- Resident Groups - 42 CFR §483.10(f)(5)
- Physician Delegation of Tasks in SNFs - 42 CFR §483.30(e)(4)
- Physician Visits - 42 CFR §483.30(c)(3)
- Physician Visits in SNFs/ NFs - 42 CFR §483.30
- Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement (QAPI) - 42 CFR §483.75(b)–(d) and (e)(3)
- Detailed Information Sharing for Discharge Planning for Long Term Care Facilities- 42 CFR §483.21(c)(1)(viii)
- Clinical Records - 42 CFR §483.10(g)(2)(ii)

**Emergency Declaration Blanket Waivers Ending for Various Provider Types Ending 60 days from Publication of this Memorandum – Terminates June 6, 2022**

- Physical Environment for SNF/NFs - 42 CFR §483.90
- Equipment Maintenance & Fire Safety Inspections for ESRD facilities - 42 CFR §494.60(b) and(d)
- Facility and Medical Equipment Inspection, Testing and Maintenance - 42 CFR §418.110(c)(2)(iv), 483.470(j) and 483.90
- Life Safety Code (LSC) and Health Care Facilities Code (HCFC) - - 42 CFR §418.110(d)(1)(i) and (e), 483.470(j)(1)(i) and (5)(v), and 483.90(a)(1)(i) and (b)
- Outside Windows and Doors - 42 CFR §418.110(d)(6), 483.470(e)(1)(i), and 483.90(a)(7)
- Life Safety Code related to fire drills and temporary construction - 42 CFR §418.110(d), 483.470(j), and 483.90(a)
- Paid Feeding Assistants for LTC facilities - 42 CFR §483.60(h)(1)(i) and 483.160(a)
- In-Service Training for LTC Facilities - 42 CFR §483.95(g)(1)
- Training and Certification of Nurse Aides for SNF/NFs - - 42 CFR §483.35(d)

The recently released waiver end dates **does not** impact the *3 Day Stay* or the *Spell of Illness* waivers. These waivers remain in force nationwide for all hospitals, communities and SNF's.

Please review the [QSO-20-15-NH & NLTC & LSC](#) memorandum, the [Electronic Code of Federal Regulations](#) or [Appendix PP State Operations Manual](#) closely for details of each bullet point that is going back to regulations prior to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Declaration to ensure you are in compliance.

[The American Health Care Association \(AHCA\) has outlined key takeaways and next steps](#) facilities can take to prepare for the upcoming end of the 1135 waiver.

## **New CDC COVID-19 Quarantine and Isolation (Q&I) Calculator | Could Be Helpful for Visitors?**

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) new [COVID-19 Quarantine and Isolation \(Q&I\) Calculator](#) is an online, mobile-friendly tool to help people follow quarantine and isolation guidance and get customized information for their unique situation. Developed in response to requests from partners and the public, the Q&I Calculator provides an easy-to-use way to figure out when and for how long people with

COVID-19 and [close contacts](#) need to stay home, get tested, and wear a well-fitting mask. The calculator also provides important information about what precautions people with COVID-19 and their close contacts can take to protect loved ones and slow the spread of COVID-19 in their communities. Individuals, healthcare providers, businesses, and organizations that are managing COVID-19 cases and close contact exposures can use the Q&I Calculator.

The Q&I Calculator is **not** for people with COVID-19 who are moderately or severely ill or those who have a weakened immune system—they should talk to their healthcare provider about when to end isolation. Healthcare providers can learn more about ending isolation for these populations by referring to the [Ending Isolation and Precautions for People with COVID-19: Interim Guidance](#).

In addition, this tool does not apply to cases and close contacts identified in certain settings. For information about isolation and quarantine in high-risk congregate settings and healthcare settings, refer to [COVID-19 Quarantine and Isolation](#). Parents with children in K-12 schools or early care and education (ECE) programs should consult the program administrator for specific isolation and quarantine guidance in their school or ECE setting.

CDC encourages health departments and partners to promote the Q&I Calculator widely. Health departments and health systems can add the Quarantine and Isolation (Q&I) Calculator onto their websites by [embedding the syndicated content code](#).

## Person Centered Care Planning Webinar – Free!



Teepa Snow, MS, OTR/L, FAOTA  
CEO, Positive Approach to Care®

RELIAS

Teepa Snow, renowned dementia care expert, and Relias Health partner and provide informative webinars. Recently, they offered a *Person-Centered Care Planning* webinar where Snow identifies the key factors to be taken into consideration when planning a care routine for a person who is living with dementia. During the training, Snow highlights the value of individualizing scheduled routines and programs for best outcomes. She provides great examples and demonstrates practical and effective responses to use in your daily work. Access this 60-minute webinar [here](#).

## Guilt and Grief When Moving a Loved One to a Care Facility – Perspective for Care Facility Staff

Submitted by the Alzheimer's Association of Minnesota/North Dakota and South Dakota



Guilt and grief are among the most challenging feelings caregivers must face when transitioning from home to a care facility. Guilt is often tied to the belief that they 'should' be able to care for their loved one until the very end. All caregivers have limits and there comes a time when professional assistance is best for all involved. Feelings of guilt can also be influenced by their loved one's seeming improvement after placement, causing them to second-guess their decision. Perhaps they feel guilty because they broke a spoken or unspoken 'promise' never to place their loved one in a nursing home. Perhaps they sense that others judge them negatively for this decision or that their loved one is unhappy in this new environment. It is also common to feel a sense of relief after placement – "now I can finally relax!" Few caregivers can approach moving a loved one lightly. Some guilt feelings are normal and not evidence of failure.

Grief is an emotional, physical and/or thought-based reaction to perceived loss and change. We grieve to adjust and come to terms with loss that matters in our lives. Many losses occur along the Alzheimer's journey. Like guilt, grief reactions are normal and to be expected. It is true that the sadness of grief can be overwhelming at times. Placement changes their pattern of living and providing care. An important challenge is learning how to live as themselves, separated from their loved one, yet still very much a part of his or her life.

**How Can You Help?** Know that these are normal reactions. Know that it is common for them to feel conflicting emotions. It's OK to feel love and anger at the same time. Refer them to the Alzheimer's Association to arrange a Care Consultation. Reassure them that having 24-hour care in a safe environment will help everyone involved, most of all, their loved one with dementia. Their loved one will benefit from the structure and stimulation of nursing home activities and a daily routine in an accepting and understanding environment. Encourage them to develop good relations with those who are responsible for their loved one's physical care. This will also give them the opportunity to socialize with other people who are in similar shoes as they are. Encourage them to take care of their own physical, spiritual, social, and emotional needs that have possibly been neglected. Empower them to be their loved one's voice and to make the most of the time they spend with them.

The [Alzheimer's Association](https://www.alz.org) is a worldwide health organization dedicated to Alzheimer's care, support, and research. Its mission is to lead the way to end Alzheimer's and all other dementia — by accelerating global research, driving risk reduction and early detection, and maximizing quality care and support. More information is available at [alz.org](https://www.alz.org) or the 24/7 Helpline: 800.272.3900.



## News, Updates, Tips

### NHSN Q&A: Reporting Home COVID-19 test positive results in NHSN

**Q:** If nursing home staff person performs and reports a positive **Home** COVID-19 test, is this reportable in NHSN?

**A:** **YES and NO** depending on what COVID 19 module you are doing.

- **Yes** - Facility will include them as positive counts for staff in the **COVID Surveillance Pathway /Staff and Personnel Impact Module** if the staff/personnel were in the facility during the infectious period. Reference: [TOI Resident Impact and Facility Capacity \(cdc.gov\)](https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/2020/09/2020-09-TOI-Resident-Impact-and-Facility-Capacity/) – refer to page 2 Positive Tests section- 2<sup>nd</sup> bullet point.
- **No** - Facility will not include the home tests in the **NHSN Point of Care (POC) Module** because the tests were not performed at the facility.

### National Healthcare Safety Network Long-Term Care Facility Quick Links

[Vaccination Weekly HCP & Res COVID-19 Module Main Webpage](#)

[COVID-19 LTCF Module Main Webpage](#)

[Data Quality Alerts: Weekly COVID-19 Vaccination Modules](#)  
[Data Quality Alerts: COVID-19 Pathways Module](#)  
[Frequently Asked Questions: COVID-19 Data Document](#)  
[NHSN Point of Care Testing Reporting Tool FAQ's](#)  
[NHSN LTC COVID-19 Module How to Re-Assign the FacADM](#)  
[NHSN LTC COVID-19 How to Add a User](#)

*"The secret of change is to focus  
all of your energy not fighting  
the old, but on building  
the new" ~ Socrates*

**NHSN Users, are you a Great Plains QIN nursing home discussion listserv member?** There are many NHSN changes happening and coming to lessen some of the reporting items, but in the meantime, there is a learning curve to all these changes. Be patient with yourself. You have already accomplished so much in NHSN. Hopefully, the changes will indeed be time-saving for the NHSN user submitting the data.

Great Plains QIN attempts to post every NHSN memo on the Great Plains Nursing Home Discussion Listserv. If you currently are not a member to this listserv and you do the NHSN data submitting for your facility, contact [Lori Hintz](#) to be added as a listserv member.

**Recent NHSN memos released with important information regarding changes.**

[NHSN/CDC Surveillance Pathways Memo - 4/29/2022](#)  
[NHSN/CDC Memo Weekly Vaccination Changes – 4/27/22](#)



## CDC, CMS, OSHA Resources and Updates

### CDC

[Interim IPC Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel During COVID19 Pandemic](#) Updated 2/2/22  
[Stay Up to Date with Your Vaccines](#) Updated 1/16/22  
[Ending Isolation & Precautions for People w COVID-19: Interim Guidance](#) Updated 1/14/22-Does Not apply to Healthcare Personnel  
[Interim Guidance for Managing Healthcare Personnel w SARS-CoV-2 Infection/Exposure](#) Updated 1/21/22  
[Strategies to Mitigate Healthcare personnel Staffing Shortages](#) Updated 1/21/22  
[COVID Data Tracker - Check your community transmission rate. Updated Daily at 8pm](#)  
[Interim IP Control Recommendations to Prevent SARS-COV-2 Spread in NHs](#) Updated 2/2/22  
[Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of N95 Respirators](#) 9/16/2021  
[Selected Adverse Events Reported after COVID-19 Vaccination](#) Updated 1/24/22  
[FAQs about COVID-19 Vaccination in LTCFs](#) 9/9/21  
[COVID -19 Vaccines for LTC Facility Residents](#) Updated 1/21/22

### CMS

[QSO-22-15-NH-NLTC-LSC PHE Waivers Update](#) 4/7/2022  
[QSO-22-09-ALL Guidance for IFR COVID19 Health Care Staff Vaccination](#) Rev 4/5/2022

- [LTC and SNF Attachment A- Revised](#)

[QSO-20-38-NH IFR COVID19 PHE re LTC Facility Testing Requirements](#) Rev 3/10/2022  
[QSO-20-39-NH Nursing Home Visitation COVID19](#) Rev 3/10/2022  
[Nursing Home Visitation FAQ's](#) Updated 3/10/22  
[QSO-22-10-ALL Vaccination Expectations for Surveyors Performing Federal Oversight](#) –1/25/2022  
[QSO-22-08-NH Nursing Staff Turnover and Weekend Staffing Levels](#) 1/7/2022  
[QSO-22-02-ALL Changes to COVID19 Survey Activities & Increased Oversight in NH's](#) 11/12/21

## SNF Quality Reporting Program Reference Guide Updated AGAIN

The CMS [SNF QRP Quick Reference Guide v3.0](#) as of March 31, 2022, was updated. [CMS Main Webpage for SNF Quality Reporting Program \(QRP\)](#)

# WE ARE PROJECT FIRSTLINE



## North Dakota Project Firstline Updates

Looking for a fresh way to learn about Infection Prevention and Control topics?



Our Healthcare Associated Infections team is coming out with a **quarterly newsletter!** We also send out emails to let you know when new infection prevention and control training topics are open for sign-ups. **To get on our emailing list, send an email to [dohpfl@nd.gov](mailto:dohpfl@nd.gov)**

**Interested in training videos, job aides and more?** For infection prevention and control resources that can help you do your best work, check out NDDoH Project Firstline website at: [www.health.nd.gov/projectfirstline](http://www.health.nd.gov/projectfirstline)

**Do you have an infection prevention and control question or a topic you want us to cover?** Our team is always here to help and we want to know what topics you want to know more about.

Send any questions or feedback to [dohpfl@nd.gov](mailto:dohpfl@nd.gov)

## South Dakota Project Firstline Updates

**"Just the Facts"** - This month we highlight the new CDC training poster **"Germs Live on the Skin"**



**Staph infections** are caused by staphylococcus bacteria, germs commonly found on the skin or in the nose of healthy people. If these germs invade deeper in the body, enter the bloodstream, joints, bones, lungs or heart, the consequences can be **deadly**.



If you develop a staph infection, there is a good chance that it is from bacteria you have been carrying around.

Staph is **transmitted** from person to person and lives on objects, such as pillowcases and towels and can travel along medical devices, such as feeding tubes, drains and catheters.

### What can you do to prevent staph infections?

- Wash hands
- Keep wounds covered
- Keep personal items personal
- Wash clothing and bedding in hot water

To **learn more** about training and education and access the new poster, visit [sdprojectfirstline.org](http://sdprojectfirstline.org) and follow us on [Facebook](#).

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