

2-5-24 Weekly Clinical Update

I wanted to share a reminder of the upcoming OSHA recordkeeping and reporting webinar next Tuesday, February 13th. Please take a moment to promote this webinar to your members as it contains important information about a regulatory requirement. Language you can use in your communication is included below. Thank you!

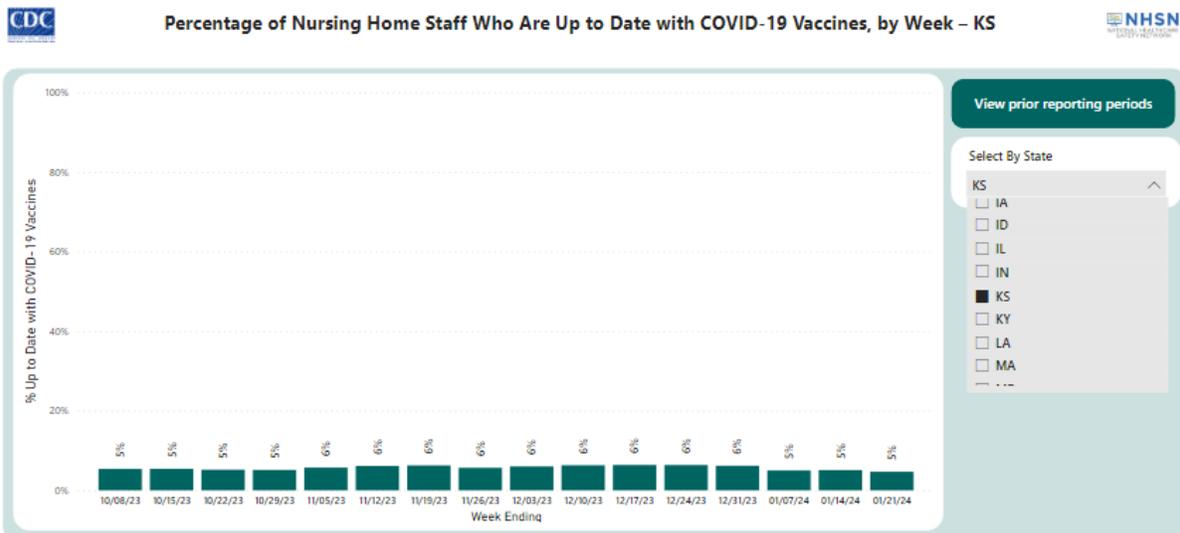
Did you know that OSHA recently [expanded its recordkeeping requirements](#)? Nearly all providers are already required to maintain OSHA 300 Logs, Form 301, and Form 300A and submit 300A summary data before March 2nd each year. The **NEW** requirement for employers with 100 or more employees adds additional information to be submitted: OSHA 300 logs and Form 301 (incident reports).

AHCA/NCAL is hosting an upcoming [webinar](#) with Brad Hunt, Chief Risk Officer at Levery Insurance Group on **February 13 at 2 PM CT**. Brad, an expert on OSHA standards, will explain the OSHA recordkeeping requirements and prepare members to meet the deadlines and maintain compliance with the standard. He will also share best practices and how to avoid common mistakes when submitting this required information.

Don't miss this important webinar! [Register today!](#)

According to AHCA...your organization and you advocate, says: “Residents in LTC communities are among those at the highest risk of severe disease and illness from common respiratory viruses, including the flu, RSV, and COVID-19. The good news is that safe, effective, and accessible vaccines are available to protect these individuals from serious illness or even death.”

Most of you are acutely aware that COVID-19 is not “over” ...by a long shot. Many nursing facilities continue to have outbreaks. Research has proven that being “up-to-date” with the vaccine may not prevent a person from having symptoms of COVID-19 but it does generally mean that the symptoms are minor and seldom leads to hospitalization. So, would it surprise you that as of the CDC website, last updated on 1-24-24 that 32% of nursing home residents in Kansas are considered up-to-date, which is down from the high of 35% on December 31, 2023? <https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/covid19/ltc-vaccination-dashboard.html>



In addition, the percentage of nursing home staff that are considered up-to-date with COVID-19 vaccination is 6%...yes, that's 6%.

AHCA/NCAL has created a wonderfully useful tool kit #GETVACCINATED RESOURCES:

https://www.ahcancal.org/Quality/Pages/GetVaccinated.aspx?cm_ven=ExactTarget&cm_cat=Empowering+LTC+Providers+in+the+Fight+Against+Respiratory+Diseases++with+%23GetVaccinated&cm_pla=Marketing%27s+Memos+2024+Marketing+List&cm_ite=getvaccinated.us&cm_lm=1133328106&cm_ainfo=&&&&

The site is free to download and the Provider Resources include:

- Reimbursement Guide
- Medicare Billing Guidance
- Checklist
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Summary of CMS Vaccine Regulations
- Standing Orders
- Offering and Documenting Vaccines in Long Term Care
- Vaccine Co-Administration
- Vaccine Information Statements for Residents and Families
- Pneumonia Vaccine Timing for Adults

Promotional Tools include:

- Talking Points and Template Letters
- Social Media (English and Spanish)
- Posters (English and Spanish)

Important to point out is that every resident has the right to refuse treatment, but every facility has the responsibility to “educate and offer” the available vaccines. If the resident/representative makes the decision to decline the vaccine(s), the facility MUST obtain a signed declination for the vaccine. Additionally, these are not “one and done” consents/declinations. Current information must be presented to the resident/representative as often as the vaccine is recommended except for the pneumovax vaccine, which, if the resident/representative declines the vaccine, should be re-educated and re-offered annually, as is required for influenza and COVID vaccines.

As important as this toolkit is...and it's really important, at the bottom of the toolkit site, is a link for your clinical staff, especially your Infection Preventionist, to join The National Infection Prevention Forum, which is a collaborative online space for all infection preventionists working in LTC. Joining the Forum is FREE! Those monitoring the site and answering questions are representatives of CDC, APIC and other organizations considered subject matter experts. That site is a real “jewel”.