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Visit our COVID-19 Page Here

Dear Member:

LTC Now Required to Report COVID-19 Vaccinations to NHSN

Long-term care facilities will now be required to report weekly data on COVID-19 vaccination status for both residents and staff under a new CMS interim final rule released today, Tuesday, May 11, 2021. The reporting requirement will apply to long-term care facilities and intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities. As data becomes available, CMS will post facility-specific vaccination status information so that it can be seen openly on CMS' COVID-19 Nursing Home Data website.

The [memo](#) released this morning stated that the new mandate is designed to assist in monitoring uptake among residents and staff, and aid in identifying facilities that may be in need of additional resources to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. LTC facilities are already required to report COVID-19 testing, case and mortality data to the National Healthcare Safety Network for residents and staff, but they have not been required to report vaccination data. Until this memo, staff vaccination reporting has been voluntary. Now vaccination status of both residents and staff are to be reported to NHSN.

The agency on Tuesday added that it's also seeking comment on expanding the reporting policy to other congregate care settings, such as assisted living facilities, psychiatric residential treatment facilities and group homes. Regulators said they are specifically interested in comments on "potential barriers facilities may face in meeting the requirements, such as staffing issues or characteristics of the resident or client population, and potential unintended consequences."

For additional details on today's rule, visit [here](#).

For COVID-19 Vaccine Immunization Requirements for Residents and Staff visit [here](#).

LTC Facilities Should Have a Vaccination Process in Place with LTC Pharmacies; CDC's ImmPact System Can be Used to Track Vaccination Status

Maine CDC is transitioning the vaccination of new LTC residents and staff from public health nursing to LTC Pharmacies or walk-in clinics as appropriate. LTC Pharmacies will have an initial vaccine supply that is being allocated from the federal Retail Pharmacy Program. Ongoing allocation, however, will be based on utilization, so it will be important for Maine nursing homes and assisted living facilities to align with LTC Pharmacies and secure a process for vaccinating your new residents and staff as soon as possible if you don't already have a relationship.

Additionally, MHCA has worked with the Maine Immunization Program on a protocol for providers to use the Maine Immunization Information System (ImmPact) to ascertain the vaccination status of new residents. Vaccination tracking capability will be especially important if and when a booster shot is recommended. Here's the latest information:

ImmPact:

- If sites want to have "view-only" permission, they need to fill out a non-vaccine user agreement. <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/immunization>
- Sites are only allowed to view resident records. Sites wishing to see staff records should only search with the staff members' documented consent.
- Sites that are partnered with pharmacies to receive vaccine transfers will need to have a Covid-19 Provider Agreement: <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/immunization/covid-19-providers/enrollment.shtml> These sites can shift their ImmPact permissions from non-vaccine user to vaccine provider.

The ImmPact team is happy to provide training on how to use ImmPact. If you are interested, please contact ngrosso@mehca.org. MHCA will request a training based on member response.

This week: MeCDC Director Dr. Nirav Shah Addresses Maine Congregate Care Providers

Dr. Shah will be hosting another COVID-19 Congregate Care Zoom meeting on Friday May 14th from 11:00-12:00. The Zoom information is below.

To attend this call please use the link below:

<https://mainestate.zoom.us/j/82034877058?pwd=cjlleWhlQkZTUHpCUiVHWU5HVGYrdz09>

Meeting ID: 820 3487 7058

Passcode: YG2guG&M

Maine QIO Seeks Your Input

Healthcentric Advisors invites members to participate in its **Quarter 2 2021 Long-Term Care Stakeholders Consortium**. The purpose of this consortium is to share the work of your QIO, Healthcentric Advisors, listen and share creative solutions and best practices to the industry's critical needs and offer a forum to gather and collaborate. The pandemic, workforce issues and other challenges have burdened the industry for quite some time. For this reason, the 2021 goals will seek ways to support and abate some of the more poignant issues.

Please join them for a series of open and facilitated sharing discussions. The partnership will meet virtually, quarterly throughout the year beginning on **Friday, May 14 at 11 am**. Use the link below to sign up, which lets the QIO know you would like to participate. A Zoom link will be sent automatically when you sign up. Please note - this is the same time as the Dr. Shah call so you may want to designate someone to cover each call.

[**SIGN UP HERE**](#)

Sincerely,

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