California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Infection Prevention Webinar

Wednesday, December 1, 2021

Upcoming Calls

- CDPH Tuesday, 8 a.m., All-Facilities Phone Calls:
  - Call in: **1.844.721.7239**
  - Access code: **799 3227**
- CDPH Wednesday, 3 p.m., SNF Infection Prevention (IP) Webinars:
  - Register at: **hsag.com/cdph-ip-webinars**
  - Recordings, notes, and slides are posted at registration site
  - Trouble logging in: check link and date at registration site
- CDPH Thursday, 12 noon, SNF IP Phone Calls:
  - Dial-in: **1.877.226.8163**
  - Access Code: **513 711**

HSAG Webinar Registration Website

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CDPH Infection Prevention Webinars

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH)—with the California Association of Long Term Care Medicine (CALTCM), California Association of Health Facilities (CAHF), and Health Services Advisory Group (HSAG)—hosts a weekly Wednesday webinar on infection prevention for long term care facilities. This webinar is a supplement to the weekly CDPH Thursday skilled nursing facility (SNF) Infection Prevention Calls to discuss any recent updates on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and provide an additional venue for addressing questions. Like the Thursday calls, the Wednesday webinars focus on infection prevention guidance for SNFs. It is recommended that SNF infection prevention staff attend. Local health departments and SNF administrators, directors of nursing, and medical directors are also encouraged to attend.

Please register in advance; space is limited. A recording link will be available the day following the webinar.

Day of the webinar event: Call-in telephone number for all webinars is: **415.655.0003**. You may join via computer (using your computer or telephone for audio) or by telephone only. (If you join the video portion of the webinar, for a better webinar experience we recommend you have WebEx call your phone—don't dial in yourself).

Register for Upcoming Webinars

October - December 2021

January - March 2022

Past Webinars
CLICK HERE to find past weekly webinar recordings, slides, and other links—beginning June 24, 2020, to present.

Weekly Call Notes
CLICK HERE to find notes from the weekly Wednesday webinars and Thursday phone calls beginning March 22, 2021.
CLICK HERE to find notes from Sept. 2020–Feb. 2021 (scroll to the bottom of the linked page to find the notes).

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Webinar Recordings, Slides & Call Notes

Past Webinars

June–September 2020

October–December 2020

January–March 2021

April–June 2021

July–September 2021

October–December 2021

October 6, 2021: Access the recording | HSAG slides | Testing Taskforce | Vaccine Update | Ventilation | Call Notes

October 13, 2021: Access the recording | HSAG slides | Testing Taskforce | Vaccine Update | Ventilation 2 | Call Notes

October 20, 2021: Access the recording | HSAG slides | Testing Taskforce | Vaccine Update | IP Continuing Education | Call Notes

October 27, 2021: Access the recording | HSAG slides | Testing Taskforce | Vaccine Update | Influenza Update | Call Notes

November 3, 2021: Access the recording | HSAG slides | Testing Taskforce | Vaccine Update | Monoclonal Antibodies | Call Notes

November 10, 2021: Access the recording | HSAG slides | Testing Taskforce | Vaccine Update | Call Notes

How to Find the Chat Button and Submit a Question

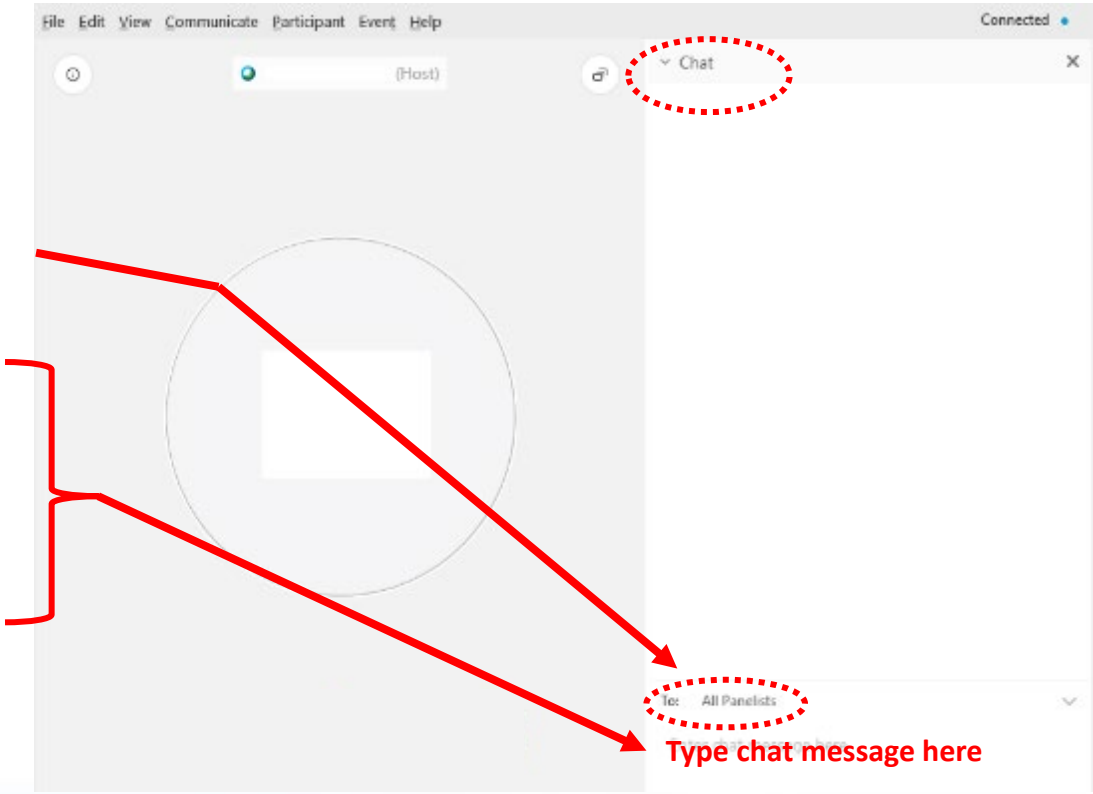
1. To submit a question, click on the **Chat Button** located in the bottom right corner of your Webex window.

2. The **Chat** panel will open on your right.

3. Indicate that you want to send a question to **All Panelists**.

4. Type your question in the box at the bottom of the panel.

5. Press **Enter** on your keyboard to submit your question.



To connect to the audio portion of the webinar, please have Webex call you.

Please Take 5 Seconds and Let Us Know

We want this call to be meaningful to you, so we need your input.

At the end of the webinar, you will be asked **one question** to determine if this call equipped your organization to manage COVID-19 and/or your infection prevention practices.

Agenda

- CDPH Updates
- Testing Task Force Updates
- Healthcare-Acquired Infection (HAI) Updates:
  - Omicron Variant
  - Key COVID-19 and Influenza Outbreak Prevention and Management Reminders
  - Visitation Guidance
- AFL 21-46: AB 749 Medical Director Certification
- AB 2789: California Electronic Prescribing Mandate
- Q&A

AFL= All Facilities Letter
AB= Assembly Bill

CDPH Updates

HAI Updates

Omicron Variant

- November 26, 2021—World Health Organization (WHO) designated Omicron (B.1.1.529) a variant of concern.
- One case identified (so far) in the United States.
- CDPH is still learning about how it spreads and infects individuals, vaccine effectiveness, as well as how it responds to treatment.
- PCR and antigen tests can detect the Omicron variant.
- U.S. government implemented a travel ban for non-U.S. citizen travelers from South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Lesotho, Eswatini, Mozambique and Malawi.
- California is increasing testing at airports for individuals returning from countries in which the Omicron variant has been detected.

WHO: https://www.who.int/en/activities/tracking-SARS-CoV-2-variants/
CDC: www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s1126-B11-529-omicron.html
CDPH: https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Omicron-Variant-Fact-Sheet.aspx

Whole Genome Sequencing: Detecting the Omicron Variant

- CDPH is monitoring for Omicron through the California SARS-CoV-2 Whole Genome Sequencing Initiative, known as COVIDNet (https://testing.covid19.ca.gov/covidnet/).
- Health care providers should ask patients about travel history.
- Collect and submit specimens for whole genome sequencing from individuals with COVID-19 who meet at least one of the following:
  - Recent international travel or exposure to persons with recent international travel especially to countries in which the Omicron variant has been detected;
  - Specimens that show S gene target failure/dropout (also called SGTF) by polymerase chain reaction;
  - Possible re-infection (i.e., recurrence of symptoms with positive molecular testing at least 90 days after initial infection);
  - Infection >14 days after completing a vaccination series.

Key COVID-19 and Influenza Outbreak Prevention and Management Reminders

- Emergence of Omicron, recent upticks in SNF resident cases and several large outbreaks with hospitalizations and deaths affecting both unvaccinated and fully vaccinated residents (but not yet received boosters):
  - Promote staff and resident vaccination, **including boosters.**
  - Actively screen staff and visitors for symptoms and recent exposure.
  - Enforce source control and personal protective equipment (PPE).
  - Optimize ventilation and ensure appropriate air flow.
  - Plan for using monoclonal antibodies for treatment and prophylaxis.
- Empower infection preventionists (IP):
  - IP is a full-time job. Do not consider moving IP to “other duties.”
  - A strong IP presence, engaged administrator, and involved medical director will ensure better outcomes.

Key Points for Diagnostic Testing to Identify Influenza Outbreaks in SNFs: Be Prepared!

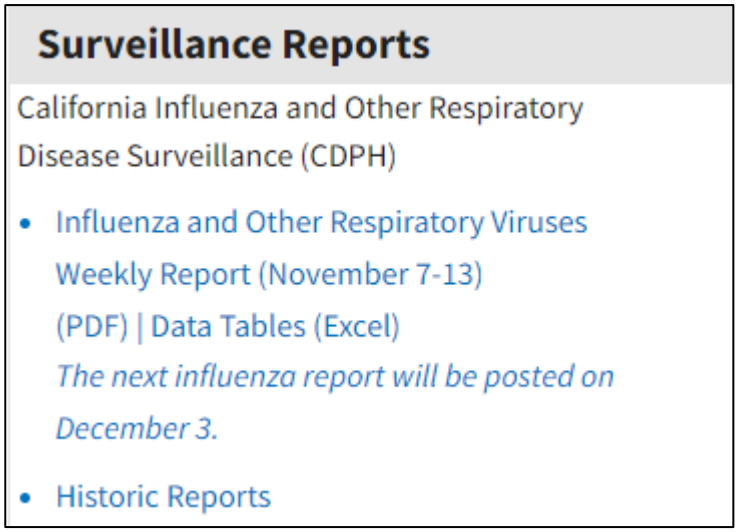
- Reminder that the recommendations in the CDPH AFL 21-44 resource **"Recommendations for the Prevention and Control of Influenza in California Skilled Nursing Facilities during the COVID-19 Pandemic"** (published October 2020) have not changed. https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/CDPH%20Document%20Library/RecsForPreventionControl_Flu_inCA_SNFsDuringCOVID_FINAL_100120.pdf
- Planning for testing.
  - Signs and symptoms of SARS-CoV-2 and influenza are similar.
  - SARS-CoV-2 and influenza may co-circulate and cause outbreaks at the same time.
  - Treatment, chemoprophylaxis, and PPE for SARS-Co-V-2 and influenza are different.
- Molecular and antigen tests available.
  - For influenza, molecular tests preferred (POC antigen tests may be used initially if TAT for molecular tests >24 hours).
  - The most important time to test is to establish the presence of an outbreak.

Identify a Process for Testing for Influenza to Obtain a Prompt Result

- Characteristics of a laboratory to serve as the testing resource for your SNF:
  - Availability of Flu/SARS-CoV-2 multiplex tests.
  - Ability to perform molecular test if antigen test is negative.
  - Provide a turnaround time (TAT) ≤ 24 hours from the time of specimen collection for influenza test.
    - POC at the facility or local/regional lab
    - Consider local hospital lab of PHL in a nearby jurisdiction
    - Determine conditions for STAT test results
  - Ability to provide broad respiratory viral panel testing if influenza and SARS-CoV-2 tests are negative and there is a cluster of respiratory illnesses in facility.

Remember…

- Know what respiratory viruses are circulating in your area.
  - CDPH conducts respiratory viral surveillance with updated reports every Friday. www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/Influenza.aspx
  - Interpret laboratory diagnostic test results in the context of the clinical conditions.
  - Communicate with your local health department when identifying and managing influenza outbreak.



Visitation Guidance

- CMS updated visitation guidance in QSO-20-39 on November 12, 2021. https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-20-39-nh-revised.pdf
- CDPH is reviewing CMS' guidance and will be updating AFL 20-22.9. https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/Pages/AFL-20-22.aspx
- For now, SNF should continue to follow the guidance in CDPH AFL 20-22.9.
- CDPH encourages nursing homes to expand visitation hours and the length of visits to be as accommodating as possible to visitors.
- Visits should be conducted in a manner that adheres to the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention and does not increase risk to other residents.

- Nursing homes need to continue to:
  - ✓ Verify the vaccination status of visitors.
  - ✓ Screen visitors for symptoms of COVID-19 or exposure to COVID-19.
  - ✓ Ensure unvaccinated visitors have proof of a negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours before entry.
  - ✓ Ensure visitors wear appropriate PPE during visits; visitors must also continue to mask and distance unless both the resident and visitor are fully vaccinated.

Questions?

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