Webinar for State Departments of Health and Other Stakeholders: State-based Approaches to Nursing Home and Other Long-term Care Facility Support during COVID-19

November 30, 2021 – 4 p.m. ET
Welcome and Introduction

Nimalie Stone
Senior Advisor for Long-term Care Partnerships, Prevention and Response Branch, Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

ELC Nursing Home & Long-term Facility Strike Team and Infrastructure Project Guidance (cdc.gov)
Nursing Home Strike Teams and Infrastructure Projects Resources: Connecting Public Health and LTC Communities – ARPA 2021 (johnahartford.org)
State Program Presentations

WASHINGTON: Carolyn Ham
Strategic Partners Program Supervisor, Healthcare-Associated Infections and Antimicrobial Resistance Section
Washington State Department of Health

RHODE ISLAND: Erin Abrahamsen
Team Lead, COVID-19 Prevention Field Team COVID-19 Unit
Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH)

WISCONSIN:
Kevin Coughlin
Policy Initiative Advisor, Division of Medicaid Services
Wisconsin Department of Health Services

Patricia Benesh
Policy Analyst, Division of Quality Assurance
Wisconsin Department of Health Services
RESPIRATORY PROTECTION FOR LONG-TERM CARE IN WA STATE

Washington State Department of Health

Healthcare-Associated Infections and Antimicrobial Resistance
Background

• If staff are exposed to a respiratory hazard, facilities are required to have a respiratory protection plan and provide fit testing respirators (such as N95s) to all staff

• Respiratory hazards include:
  • Caring for patients in isolation or quarantine for COVID-19
  • Caring for patients undergoing an aerosol-generating procedures, regardless of COVID status

• Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, respirator use was rare in long-term care facilities in WA

• There was a significant knowledge deficit among facility staff and administrators

• In WA State, we have:
  • 202 Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNF)
  • 548 Assisted Living Facilities (ALF)
  • 3,609 Adult Family Homes (AFH)
  • 6 or fewer residents
Unmet Needs:

- In August-September 2020, 9.8% of Adult Family Homes (AFH) had at least one caregiver fit tested for N95 respirators.
- In November 2020, 23.7% of LTCF did not have any N95s in stock.
  - 96.7% were AFH.
Partnerships

- Labor and Industries
- Department of Social and Health Services
  - Residential Care Services
  - Developmental Disabilities Administration
- Long-Term Care Associations
- Emergency Management Agency
- *FEMA and ELC Funding*
Action

- Occupational Health Staff:
  - First OHN October 2020
  - Two additional OHNs early 2021
  - Two Resource Coordinators Fall 2021

- Contracts:
  - Online medical clearance system (3M)
    - As of 11/12/21, 17,757 long-term care staff certified
  - Mobile fit testing, no-cost, statewide

- Supplies:
  - Fit testing kits (procurement)
  - Respirators (from EMA)

- Training:
  - Training LTCF staff to provide fit testing to their staff
  - Technical assistance to facilities to implement respiratory protection
The Five Steps of the Respiratory Protection Program

1. **Written Program**
   - Program administrator (RPA)
   - Hazard(s)
   - Respirator selection
   - Accommodation
   - Program evaluation

2. **Respirator Medical Evaluation**
   - Questionnaire
   - Clearance/Certification
   - Frequency

3. **Training**
   - Storage
   - Use
   - Disposal
   - Emergency
   - Limitations
   - Frequency

4. **Fit Testing**
   - Initial
   - Annual
   - After any physical change

5. **Recordkeeping**
   - Medical clearance
   - Training records
   - Fit testing result
Fit Testing Demonstration

- Clock with second hand
- Nebulizers and solution
- Cups and water
- Hand sanitizer
- Text to read
- Respirators
- Paper bags and markers
- Gloves
- Mirror
- Cleaning wipes
- Fit testing hood
Impact

18,598 staff certified through the medical clearance system

1,950+ Facilities registered

356+ Facilities receiving consultations from WA DOH Occupational Health Nurses
Lessons Learned

• Started small, underestimated the need
• Initial focus on fit testing, facilities missed out on full understanding of respiratory protection plan requirements
• Facilities need to understand fit testing is their responsibility
• Small facilities need more support to be prepared
Our program website can be found here:


Contact: Carolyn.Ham@doh.wa.gov
Innovative Strategies to Support LTC

The work of the Congregate Setting Support Team (CSST) and COVID-19 Prevention Field Team (CPFT) in Rhode Island
Evolution of Rhode Island’s Field Team Response

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONGREGATE SETTING SUPPORT TEAM (CSST)</th>
<th>COVID-19 PREVENTION FIELD TEAM (CPFT)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spring 2020 - Spring 2021</strong></td>
<td><strong>Spring 2021 - Currently operational</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Targeted supports to congregate settings – primarily long term care and group homes</td>
<td>Targeted supports more broadly – employers, shelters, corrections, long term care and group homes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staffed with National Guard medical members (25 members scaled down to five)</td>
<td>Civilian staff members (4 team members)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offered staff training/education</td>
<td>Advise on infection control, Q&amp;I units, prevention and mitigation strategies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advised on infection control, Q&amp;I units, prevention/mitigation strategies</td>
<td>Coordination Cell meets once weekly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coordinated resources – PPE, Staffing, Testing</td>
<td>No staffing resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coordination Cell met 3-5 times weekly</td>
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- COVID-19 PREVENTION FIELD TEAM (CPFT)
Guiding Principles

Enduring principles that have provided direction regardless of setting, outbreak status, or changing guidance

- Team must be invited by facility, visits are non-regulatory and optional
- Instill competence and confidence in infection control and outbreak response with staff
- Train/Advise/Assist – Train staff, Advise leadership, Assist with resources
- Remain scalable, adaptable, transferable
- Don’t let perfection be the enemy of good
Rhode Island Populations Impacted April 2020-April 2021

- 3,419 Personnel Trained
- 16,557 Residents Impacted
- 66% Facilities Experiencing an Outbreak
COVID-19 Prevention Field Team

Erin Abrahamsen, Team Lead, Nurse
Erin.e.abrahamsen.ctr@health.ridoh.gov
Wisconsin WisCaregiver Careers

Kevin Coughlin
Pat Benesh
Department of Health Services
WisCaregiver Career Program

• Wisconsin received $2.3 million to encourage 3,000 Wisconsinites to become a Certified Nurse Aide (CNA) and work in a nursing home.
• Free training, free testing and a $500 retention bonus.
• Workforce solutions – website, resources for recruitment and retention, webinars
• Budget
  o $250,000  Marketing (11%)
  o $100,000  Tracking System (4%)
  o $20,000  Program Administration (1%)
  o $1,665,000  Training 3,000 (72%)
  o $283,500  Testing 3,000 (12%)
## Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3/15/17</td>
<td>Award notification</td>
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<tr>
<td>7/1/17 to 1/31/18</td>
<td>Ramp up – contracts, media &amp; marketing, support system, recruitment, tracking system, web &amp; training</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/1/18</td>
<td>Soft launch</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/1/18</td>
<td>Media launch</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/12/18</td>
<td>First training enrollment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/20/18</td>
<td>First training completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/10/18</td>
<td>First person employed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/10/18</td>
<td>First person received bonus</td>
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<tr>
<td>7/31/19</td>
<td>Stopped website registrations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/15/19</td>
<td>Stopped training enrollment</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/31/19</td>
<td>Stopped training sessions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/30/20</td>
<td>Original end of project</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/30/21</td>
<td>Final end of project after COVID-19 extension</td>
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Lessons learned

• Plan and budget for the administration of the project. Significant support required.
• Don’t underestimate the benefit of a good marketing plan and tracking system.
• Be prepared for significant interest – free training, free testing and a $500 bonus resonates with a lot of people.
• Implement a mechanism to ensure nursing home data submissions.
Assisting Others

- Idaho, Kentucky, California, Texas, Montana, Ohio, New Hampshire, Maryland, North Carolina, New York, Michigan, Maine, Arizona, Pennsylvania, Connecticut
- Ontario, Canada
Contact and Resources

- **Kevin Coughlin**
  DHS, Division of Medicaid Services
  [Kevin.coughlin@wi.gov](mailto:Kevin.coughlin@wi.gov)

- **Pat Benesh**
  DHS, Division of Quality Assurance
  [Patricia.Benesh@wi.gov](mailto:Patricia.Benesh@wi.gov)

- **Website:**
  [https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/caregiver-career/index.htm](https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/caregiver-career/index.htm)

- **Student webpage:**
  [www.wisicaregiver.com](http://www.wisicaregiver.com)
Additional Q&A
Thank You

NHStrikeTeams@cdc.gov