

Understanding Assisted Living: Building Effective Partnerships with Local Health Departments to Support Infection Prevention and Control

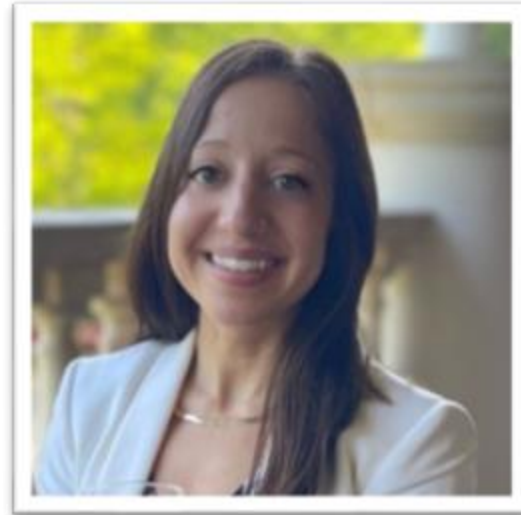
September 2, 2026
1:00 – 2:00 PM ET

NACCHO
National Association of County & City Health Officials

NACCHO's PFL Team



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Webinar Logistics

- This webinar is being recorded, and the recording will be available in NACCHO's Project Firstline Virtual Community.
- All participants are in listen only mode.
- Submit questions through the Q&A Box at any time. There will be time later in the presentation to address questions or as time allows.
- If you need technical assistance, please use the Q&A box.

About NACCHO

NACCHO serves
**over 3,300 local health
departments** across the United
States and is the leader in
providing cutting-edge, skill
building, professional
resources and programs.

Our mission is **to improve the
health of communities by
strengthening and
advocating for local
health departments.**

-  Advocacy
-  Partnerships
-  Funding
-  Training and education
-  Networking
-  Resources, tools, & technical assistance

NACCHO & Project Firstline

NACCHO's Project Firstline work aims to build the capacity of local health departments to deliver training and education to their community partners through the development and promotion of tools and resources.

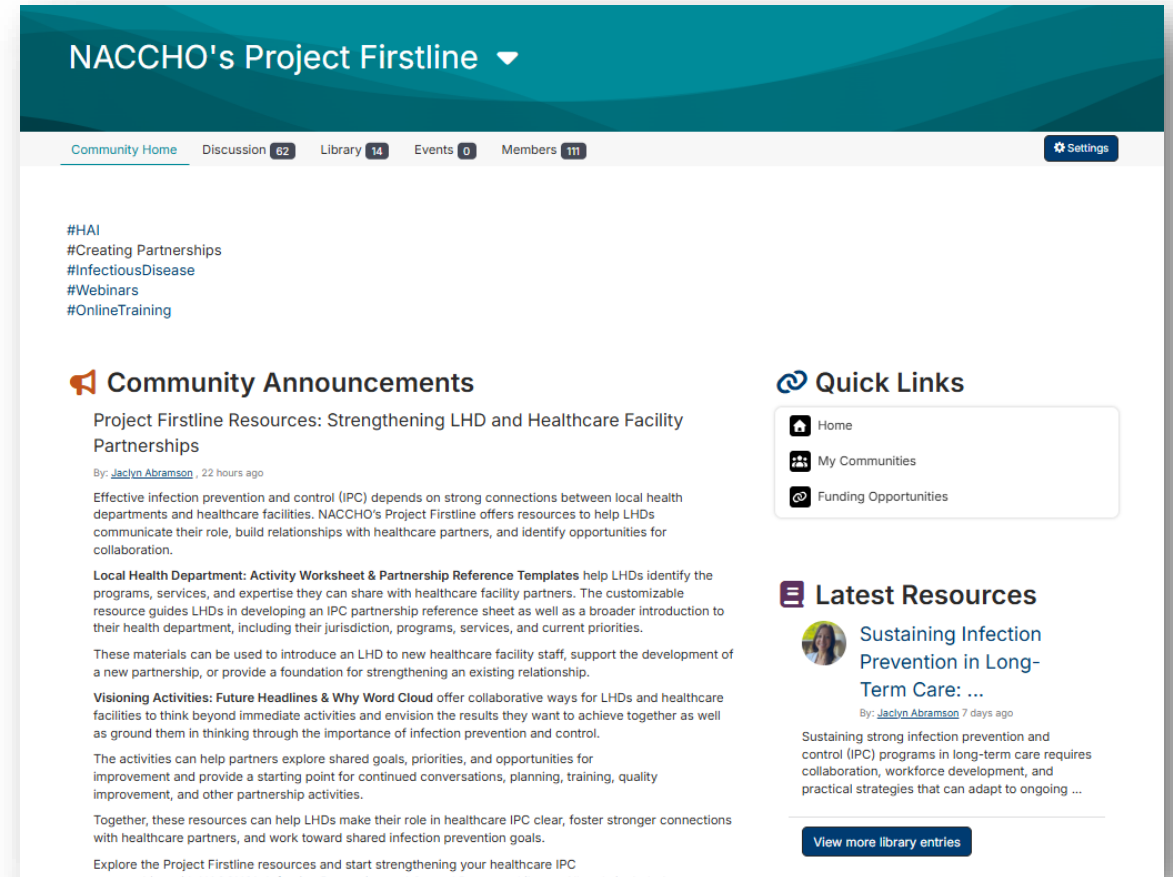


NACCHO's Project Firstline

Engage with NACCHO's Project Firstline! Join the **Project Firstline Virtual Community**.

The online community provides local health department staff opportunities to build subject matter expertise related to IPC.

All interested in IPC at the local level are welcome to join!



IPC Resource Library

Infection Prevention and Control Resource Library

Infection prevention and control (IPC) encompasses a set of practices designed to prevent the spread of infections, including healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) and emerging infectious diseases. NACCHO, with support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) Project Firstline, has compiled these resources to strengthen the capacity of local health department staff to address IPC needs across a variety of high-risk settings.

All resources are free to access; however, some may require a MyNACCHO account login.

We welcome suggestions for additional resources and feedback on this library, please send them to infectiousdiseases@naccho.org.

How to Navigate This Library:

Search Box: Enter any keyword or phrase to find relevant resources across the library. You cannot combine terms (e.g., PPE AND hand hygiene).

Keywords: Select keywords that align with your topic of interest, such as infectious disease, healthcare-associated infections (HAI), training, or antimicrobial resistance, to help narrow your search results. Please note that keywords apply to all resources in the NACCHO Toolbox and are not specific to the IPC Resource Library.

Content Types: Filter resources by format quickly to find the tools you need. Please note, not all resources are assigned a content type; selecting a content-type filter will exclude resources without one:

- Checklist - Tools to monitor IPC practices, compliance, or progress over time.
- Signage - Ready-to-print visual aids and posters to communicate IPC guidance in healthcare or community settings.
- Form - Templates for documentation, reporting, or tracking IPC activities.
- Guidance - Best practice recommendations, ICAR (Infection Control Assessment and Response) tools, and official protocols.
- Outreach and Communication - Materials designed for external audiences to explain the role of LHDs with facility staff, patients, or the community.
- Training and Education - Resources such as webinars, modules, or learning materials to build IPC knowledge and skills.
- Training Plan - Structured templates or guides to organize and implement staff IPC training programs.
- Assessment and Evaluation - Tools to measure IPC effectiveness, identify gaps, or conduct program evaluations.

* Note: Selecting "SEE FULL RESULTS" at the bottom of the page will take you to all the search results for NACCHO's Resource Hub.

Disclaimer: Any positions or views expressed in these materials do not necessarily represent the official positions of CDC.

keyword, document name, etc.

IPC RESOURCE LIBRARY

Sorted By: Newest 1-4 of 170 results Per Page: 6

Keywords

- ☐ Accessibility (1)
- ☐ Accreditation and Quality Improvement (6)
- ☐ Antimicrobial Resistance (11)
- ☐ Chronic Disease (3)
- ☐ Communications (4)
- ☐ Community Engagement (3)

Content Types

- ☐ Assessment and Evaluation (16)
- ☐ Checklist (14)
- ☐ Form (8)
- ☐ Guidance (13)

NACCHO Website

NACCHO's Project Firstline Infection Prevention & Control Quick Start Guide | AUG 28, 2026

The IPC Quick Start Guide is designed to support LHD staff in their role as educators for their healthcare facilities.

[IPC Resource Library](#)

NACCHO Toolbox

Local Health Department: Activity Worksheet & Partnership Reference Templates

Strong relationships between local health departments and healthcare facilities can make a difference in preventing and responding to infections. NACCHO's Project Firstline offers two resources designed to help LHDs start meaningful conversations, communicate what they bring to the table, and work with healthcare partners toward shared IPC goals. Local Health Department Activity Worksheet & Partnership Reference Templates. Help healthcare facility partners better...

[IPC Resource Library](#) [Infectious Disease](#) [Healthcare-Associated Infections \(HAI\)](#)

Compilation of resources to enhance the capacity of LHD staff to address unique IPC needs in a range of high-risk settings.



Poll





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Assisted Living 101

Presented to NACCHO September 2, 2026

Sheri Easton-Garrett, MSN, RN, CWP, CDP, CMDCP

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WHAT IS “SENIOR” LIVING?

Senior living offers the following levels of resident support:

- Independent Living
- Assisted Living
- Memory Care
- Continuing Care Retirement Communities

OVERVIEW OF ASSISTED LIVING

- Licensed by individual States
- AL can also include Memory Care (additional requirements)
- 31,000 communities across the U.S.
- 1.4 million assisted living residents served
- Primarily private-pay
- “Residents” not “Patients”
 - A social model vs medical model
 - Support with Activities of Daily Living
 - Average age 85
 - 42% may have moderate to severe cognitive impairment

Assisted Living Services

- Home-like Setting
- Activities of Daily Living (Non-skilled personal care)
- Provide Socialization and Structured Activities
- Provide Meals
 - No required Therapeutic or Specialized Diets
- Coordinating healthcare with third-party providers
- Typically no skilled nursing services
 - No required 24/7 nurses
- Periodic assessment for ADL care plan

Assisted Living Services (Continued)

- Do not bill Medicare
- No Medical Director requirement
- Resident Choice
 - Offer Preferred Pharmacy
 - Offer Preferred Rehabilitation Services (PT, OT, SLP)
- Coordinate Annual Vaccination Clinics

COMPARISON WITH SKILLED NURSING FACILITIES (SNFs)

- 15,000 Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs) in the U.S.
- 1.2 million seniors
- Short-term healthcare
- Medical model
 - Need around the clock access to healthcare
 - Skilled nurses and physicians on staff
- Bill Medicare directly
- SNFs are federally regulated, by CMS.

RESIDENT RIGHTS

AL residents have a right to safety, privacy, and personal autonomy.

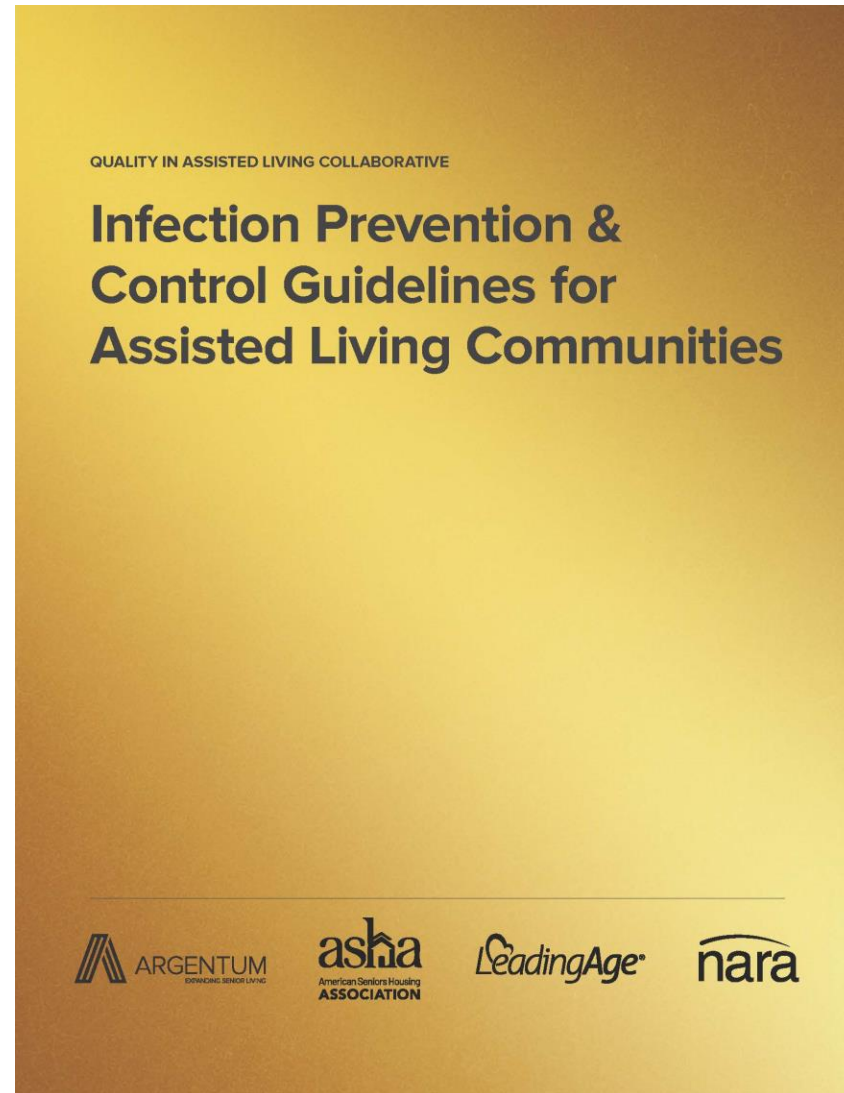
- Same as an individual in the larger community
- Residents do not lose their rights by virtue of residing in AL
- Must balance their rights versus restrictions during an outbreak
- *What do older adults want?*
 - In general, they want to live their lives as they see fit – the same things people want in general.

QALC GUIDELINES FOR ASSISTED LIVING COMMUNITIES

Argentum, through the Quality in Assisted Living Collaborative (QALC), has developed *Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines for Assisted Living Communities* (released November 2024).

- QALC will also be finalizing *Emergency Operations Guidelines for Assisted Living Communities* in 2026.
- These guidelines are available for free download (PDF format) from the [Argentum website](#).
- QALC Guidelines were developed by assisted living experts, regulators, NACCHO members, insurers, safety consultants, and others.

QALC GUIDELINES FOR ASSISTED LIVING COMMUNITIES



CDC GUIDELINES FOR ASSISTED LIVING COMMUNITIES

**Excerpted from CDCs' Infection Control Guidance: SARS-CoV-2
(June 24, 2026)**

Assisted Living, Group Homes and Other Residential Care Settings (excluding nursing homes)

In general, long-term care settings (excluding nursing homes) whose staff provide non-skilled personal care* similar to that provided by family members in the home (e.g., many assisted livings, group homes), should follow [community prevention strategies based on COVID-19 hospital admission levels](#), similar to independent living, retirement communities or other non-healthcare congregate settings. Residents should also be counseled about [strategies to protect themselves and others](#), including recommendations for source control if they are immunocompromised or at high risk for severe disease. CDC has information and [resources for older adults](#) and for [people with disabilities](#).

CDC GUIDELINES FOR ASSISTED LIVING COMMUNITIES (Continued)

Assisted Living, Group Homes and Other Residential Care Settings (excluding nursing homes) – continued

Visiting or shared healthcare personnel who enter the setting to provide healthcare to one or more residents (e.g., physical therapy, wound care, intravenous injections, or catheter care provided by home health agency nurses) should follow the healthcare IPC recommendations in this guidance. In addition, if staff in a residential care setting are providing in-person services for a resident with SARS-CoV-2 infection, they should be familiar with recommended IPC practices to protect themselves and others from potential exposures including the hand hygiene, personal protective equipment and cleaning and disinfection practices outlined in this guidance.

CDC GUIDELINES FOR ASSISTED LIVING COMMUNITIES (Continued)

Assisted Living, Group Homes and Other Residential Care Settings (excluding nursing homes) – continued

*Non-skilled personal care consists of any non-medical care that can reasonably and safely be provided by non-licensed caregivers, such as help with daily activities like bathing and dressing; it may also include the kind of health-related care that most people do themselves, like taking oral medications. In some cases where care is received at home or a residential setting, care can also include help with household duties such as cooking and laundry.

Contact Argentum for more information

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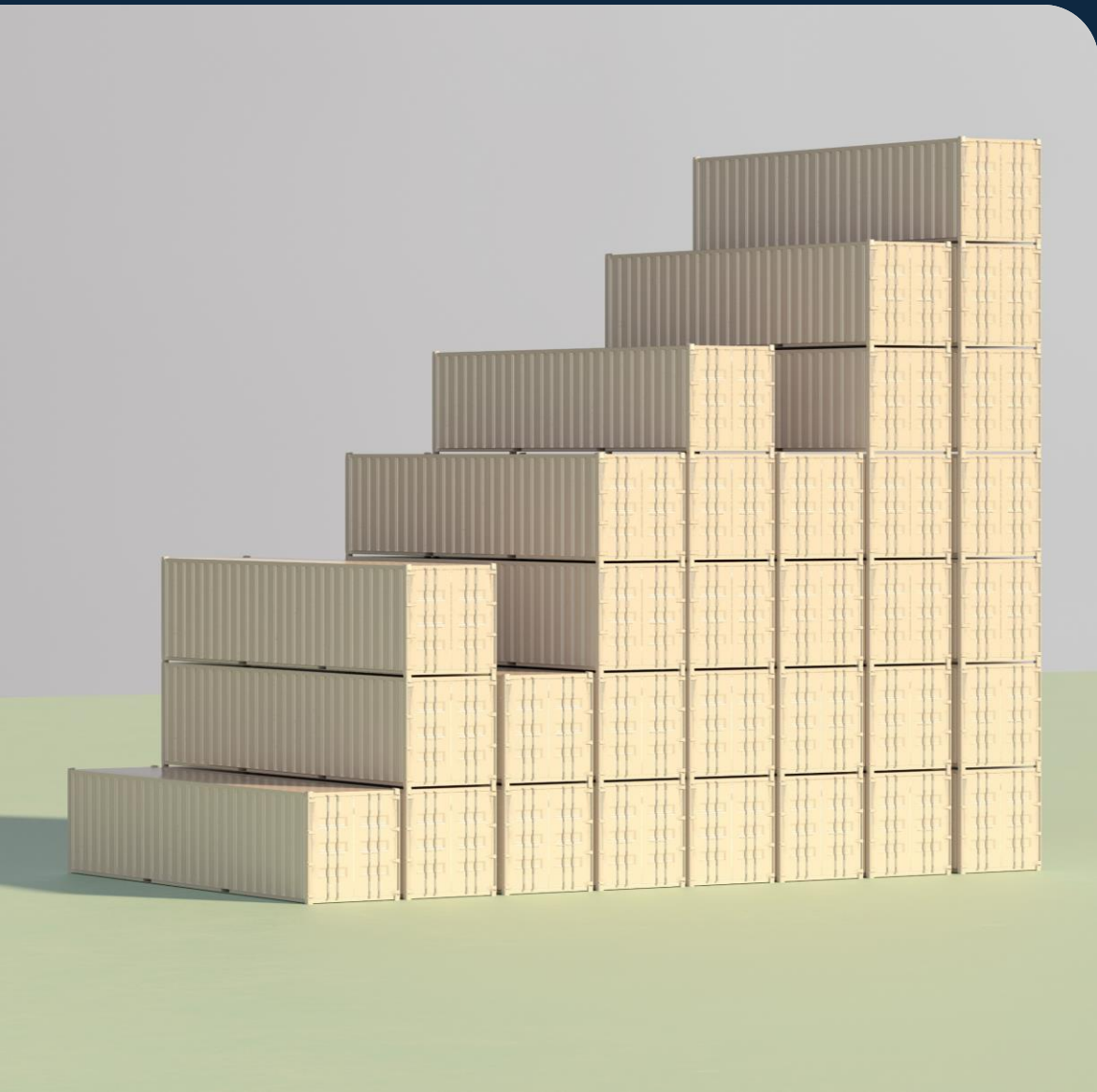


Infection Prevention and Control Considerations for Assisted Living



Dr. Heather Jones, DNP, NP-C
Nurse Consultant
Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion
Prevention and Response Branch
Long-Term Care Team





Remembering the Basics



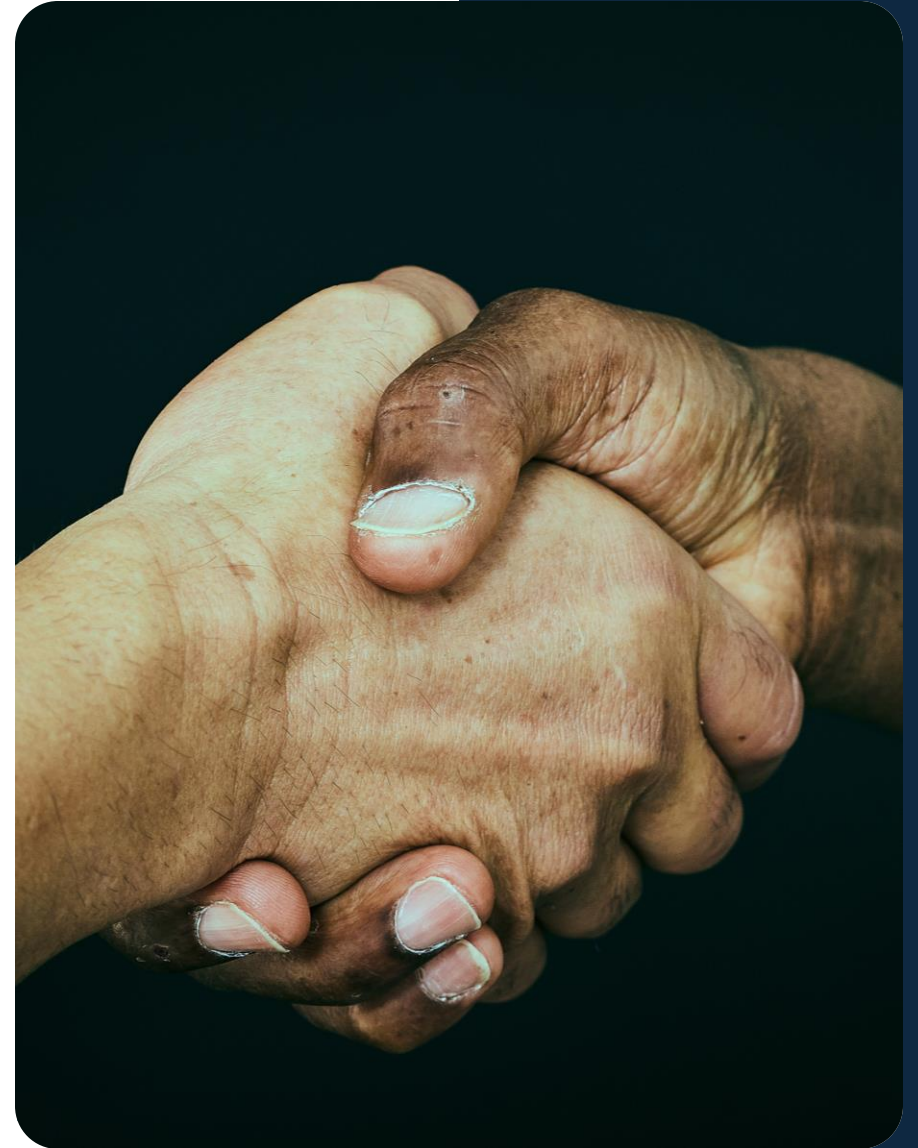
Hand Hygiene

[Clinical Safety: Hand Hygiene for Healthcare Workers |](#)
[Clean Hands | CDC](#)

REMEMBERING THE BASICS

Hand Hygiene (Staff Members)

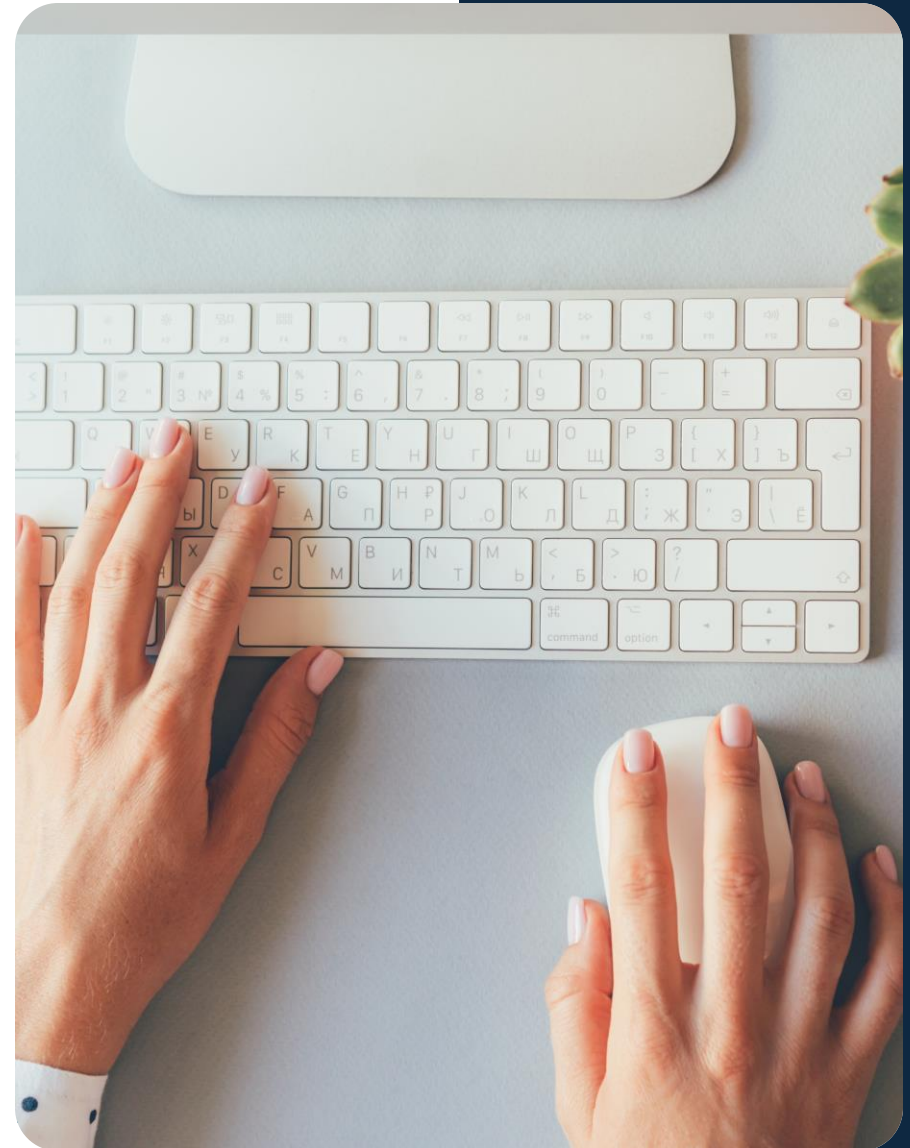
- Ask these key questions
 - How do personnel clean their hands?
 - If only in resident personal space (soap and water at sink)
 - Ask the facility to consider adding alcohol-based hand sanitizer dispensers
 - Do personnel receive education for cleaning their hands?
 - How often is the education provided?
 - Are audits completed to assess compliance?
 - Offer to provide hand hygiene materials or a brief training



REMEMBERING THE BASICS

Hand Hygiene (Contracted Healthcare Personnel)

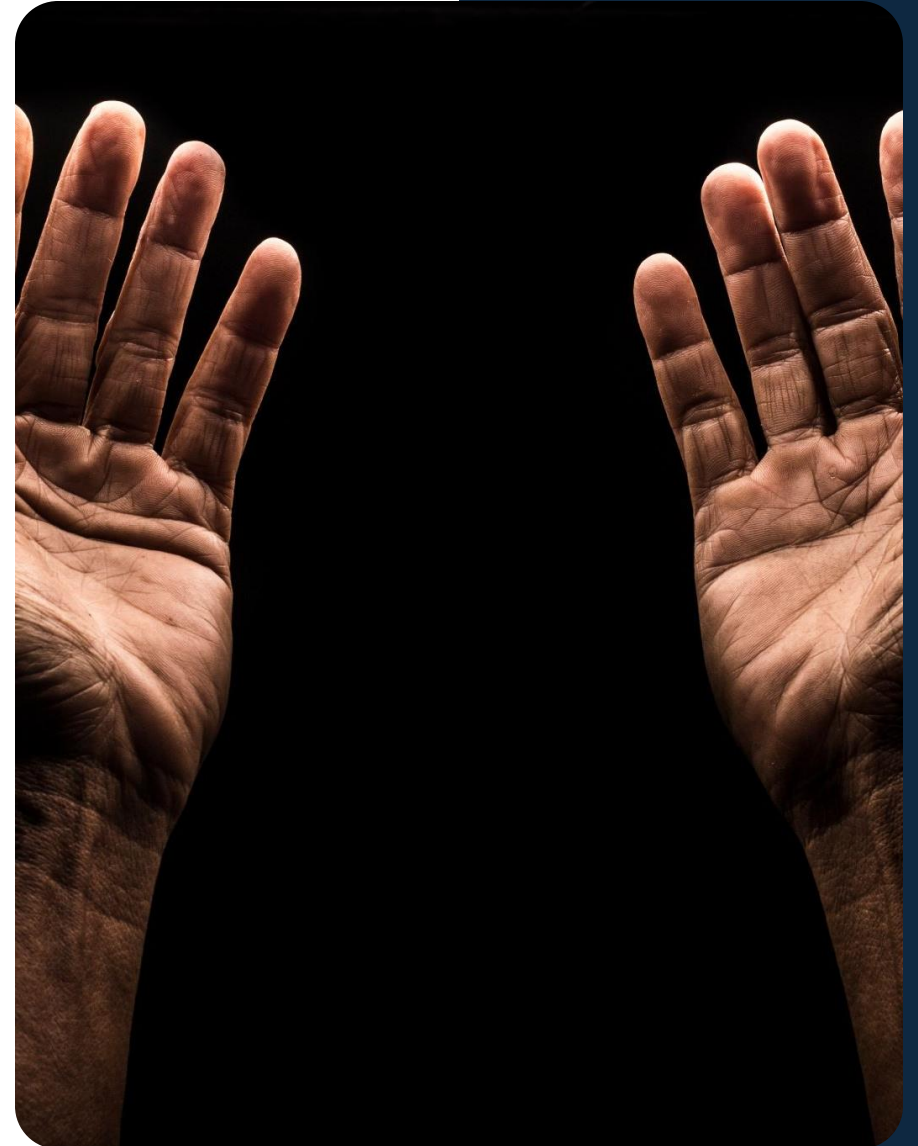
- Ask these key questions
 - Do personnel receive education for cleaning their hands?
 - How often is the education provided?
 - Are audits completed to assess compliance?
 - Offer to provide hand hygiene materials or a brief training
- **Empower facility leadership to talk with contracted healthcare personnel who provide services to the residents**



REMEMBERING THE BASICS

Hand Hygiene (Residents and Visitors)

- Do residents and visitors have reminders to clean their hands routinely?
 - Are there access points for residents and visitors to clean their hands?
 - Alcohol-based hand sanitizers in general areas
- Do residents receive education on when to clean their hands?

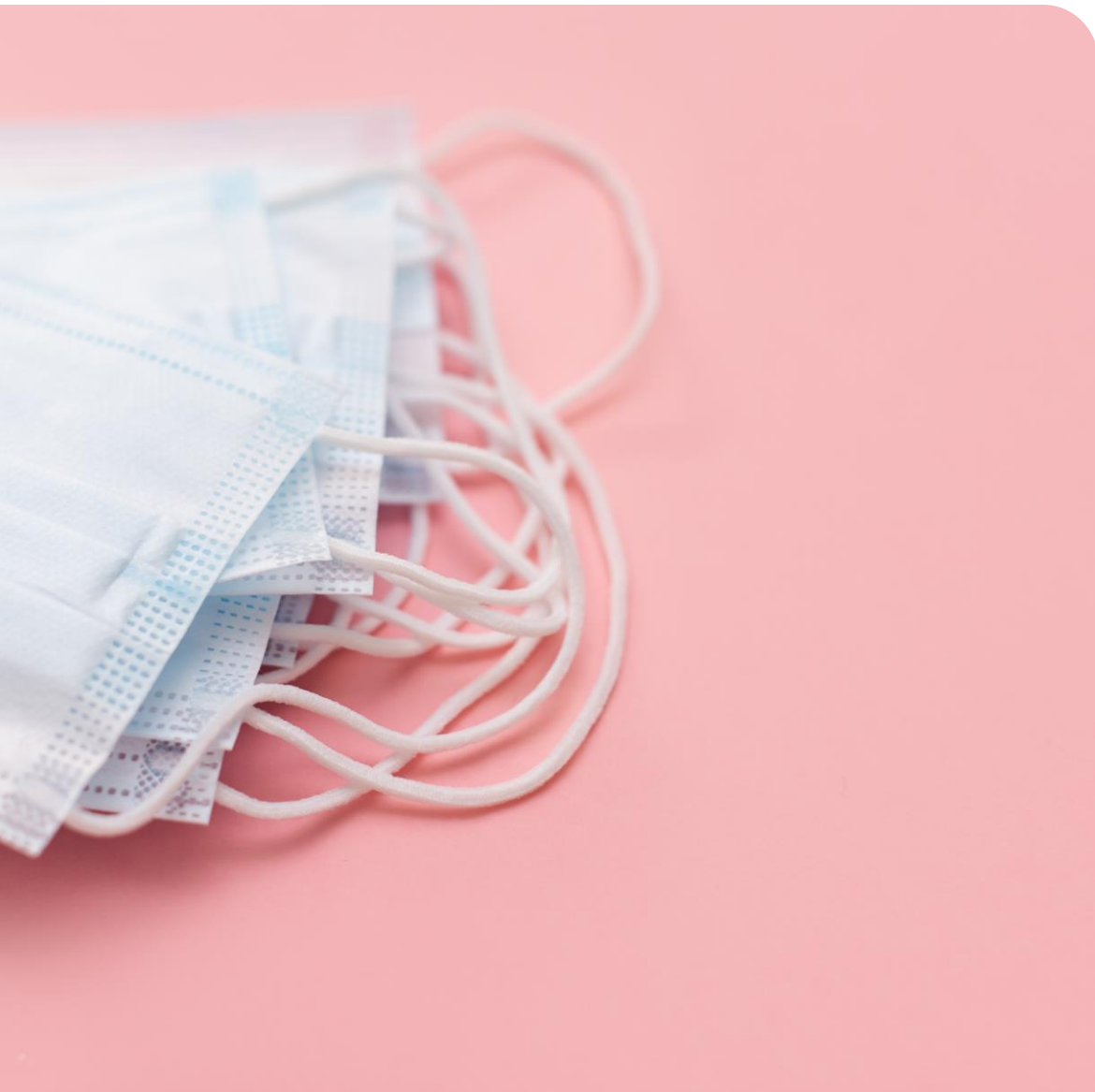




STANDARD PRECAUTIONS

Glove Use

- Are personnel educated on the appropriate times to put on gloves?
- Is there access to gloves at the point of care?
 - If no, where does the facility store gloves?
 - Provide guidance on the best practices for access to gloves



Respiratory Hygiene/Cough Etiquette

[Reminder: Infection Control Actions to Take During Respiratory Virus Season | Patient Safety | CDC](#)

[Healthy Habits: Coughing and Sneezing | Water, Sanitation, and Environmentally Related Hygiene \(WASH\) | CDC](#)

[Infection Prevention and Control Strategies for Seasonal Influenza in Healthcare Settings | Influenza \(Flu\) | CDC](#)

REMEMBERING THE BASICS

Respiratory Hygiene and Cough Etiquette

- Ask these key questions
 - Is universal education provided on preventing the spread of germs caused by coughs or sneezes?
 - Are there visual reminders in the facility to remind staff, residents, and visitors?
 - Is there access to tissues, masks (if needed), and trash cans throughout the facility?
- **Ask about sick leave policies for staff and if the staff are educated on signs and symptoms of illness for themselves and residents**





STANDARD PRECAUTIONS

Mask Use

- Does the facility have a policy for the use of source control when respiratory outbreaks occur?
- Are staff, residents, and visitors educated on the proper use of masks?



STANDARD PRECAUTIONS

Immunizations

- Does the facility have a policy for offering immunizations for respiratory viruses' prevention?
- Does the facility have a method to track immunizations?



Cleaning and Disinfection

[Options for Evaluating Environmental Cleaning | Infection Control | CDC](#)

[Environmental Infection Control Guidelines | Infection Control | CDC](#)

REMEMBERING THE BASICS

Cleaning and Disinfection

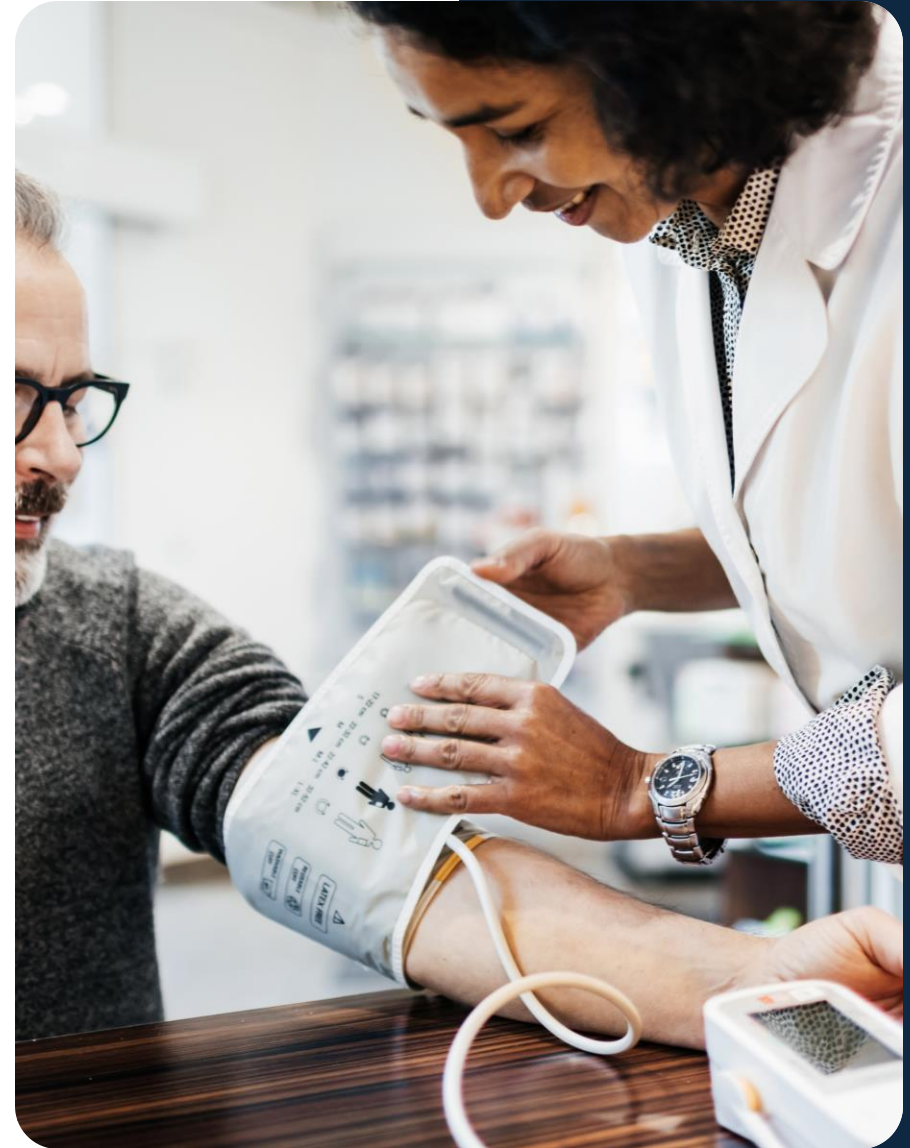
- Ask these key questions
 - What products are used to clean and disinfect?
 - Resident living spaces
 - Communal spaces
 - General areas
 - How often are these spaces cleaned and disinfected?
 - Are staff educated on proper use of cleaning and disinfection products?
 - Are audits completed to assess compliance?



REMEMBERING THE BASICS

Shared Mobile Equipment or Contractor Equipment

- Ask these key questions
 - Does the facility have a policy and procedure for cleaning and disinfecting shared mobile equipment?
 - Is there easy access for staff to cleaning and disinfection products?
 - Does the facility ask contractors about cleaning and disinfecting shared items used on multiple residents?



ASSISTED LIVING

A Distinct Setting

- Learn about highest risks for transmission
 - The facility should have a plan in place for when this occurs
- Use foundational infection prevention and control education
 - Hand Hygiene
 - Respiratory Hygiene and Cough Etiquette
 - Cleaning and Disinfection
- Remind the facility that you are a key resource

Thank you.

Contact info:
qtt4@cdc.gov

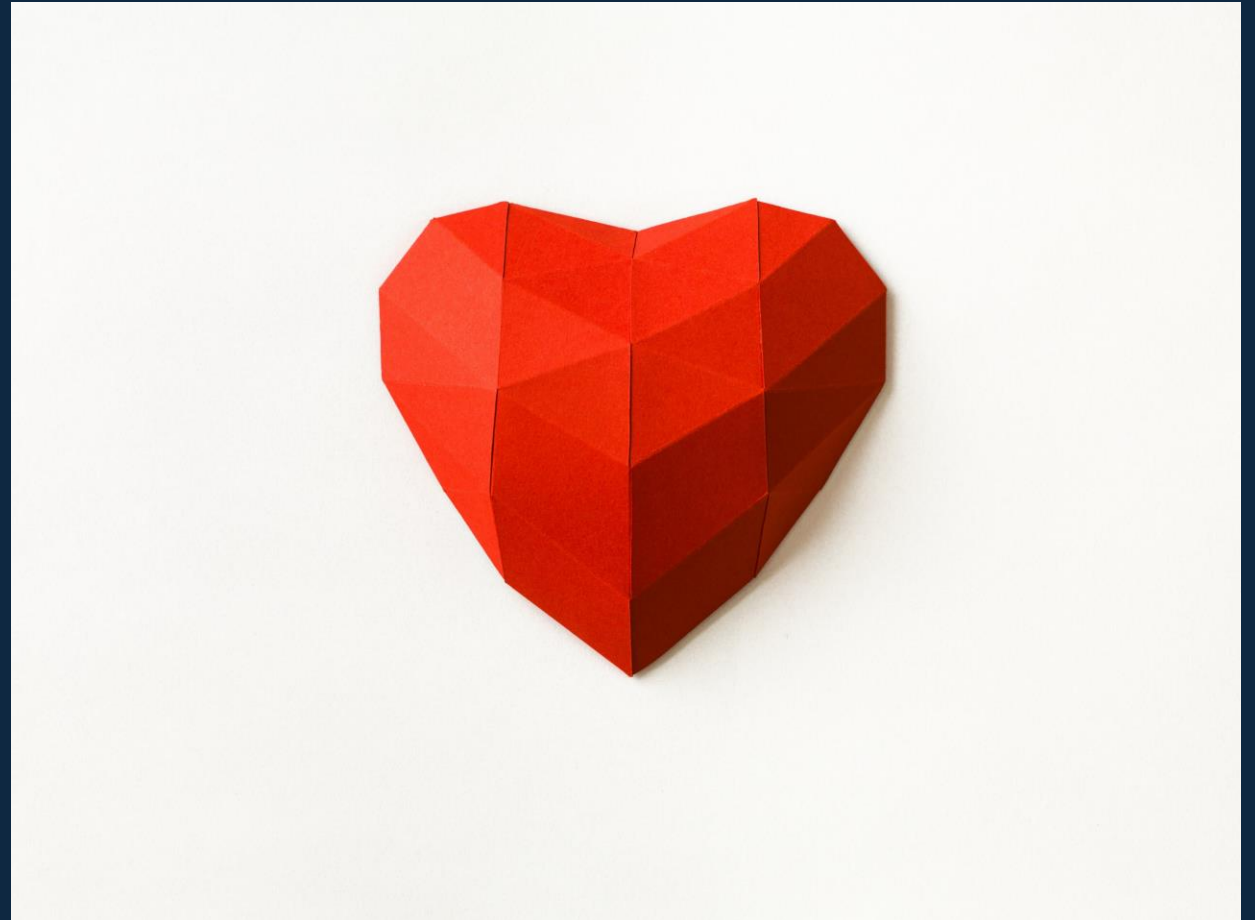
For more information, contact CDC

1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)

TTY: 1-888-232-6348 <https://www.cdc.gov/>

Follow us on social **@CDCgov**

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the U. S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



Moderated Panel



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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Audience Q&A



What's next? Connect with us!



NACCHO



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Join NACCHO's Project Firstline Virtual Community



Complete the webinar evaluation

THANK YOU!

Thank you to our speakers and to all of you for joining us!

Please take a moment to complete the evaluation.
It will pop up after you leave the webinar.

