



O **PEN OFFICE HOURS**

December 27, 2023

As 2023 comes to an end and we prepare for a new year we thank you for all that you have done and continue to do for your residents & staff. Also thank you for taking the time to direct your attention to infection prevention throughout the year! Our 2024 Open Office Hours Call schedule is set and information is on the next slide!

OPEN OFFICE HOURS

2024 Infection Prevention Long-Term Care
Facilities and Communal Setting Providers

Please join us for infection prevention education, information sharing and to collaborate with Long-Term Care and Communal Living facilities through open discussion. New for 2024, we are requiring registration for the calls! Once registered, you will receive a confirmation email that will have a link to add this call to your calendars!

**Mark your calendars for the 4th Tuesday of each month at
1:00 PM CT.**

***To register for
the call series
scan the QR
code
or click here!***

<https://rb.gy/1p330r>



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2023 call summaries/resource pages can be accessed on the KFMC News & events page:

<https://www.kfmc.org/infection-prevention-long-term-care-facilities-and-communal-setting-providers-open-office-hours/>

O **PEN OFFICE HOURS**

Spotlight

Respiratory Protection Programs (RPP)

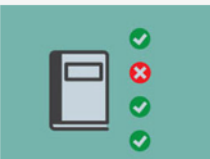
This month's spotlight is a high level overview and introduction of the Respiratory Protection Program. We do plan to spotlight additional details of key components throughout 2024.

<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/npptl/hospresptoolkit/default.html>

Healthcare Respiratory Protection Resources

[Print](#)

The following categories are key requirements necessary for an effective hospital respiratory protection program. Click into each category to browse the related NIOSH information within.

 <p>Policies and Procedures</p>	 <p>Program Administrator</p>	 <p>Evaluation and Selection</p>
 <p>Medical Evaluation</p>	 <p>Fit Testing</p>	 <p>Proper Use and Storage</p>
 <p>Training</p>	 <p>Program Evaluation</p>	 <p>Recordkeeping</p>

The categories above are explained in-depth in the Hospital Respiratory Protection Program Toolkit. For more information, browse the NIOSH resources in each category, which includes NIOSH documents, infographics, videos, blog articles, journal articles, and more.

Let's begin with "What is a RPP?" The RPP is required by OSHA under the Respiratory Protection standard (29 CFR 1910.134) that includes development and implementation of detailed policies and worksite-specific procedures for respirator use for control of respiratory hazards.

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What does a Respiratory Protection Program Administrator do? This is the person who monitors OSHA policy & standards for changes, updates the facility's policy, evaluates risk for respiratory hazards, selects respiratory protection products, monitors respirator use to ensure that respirators are used in accordance with their certification, and distributes and evaluates education/medical questionnaire.

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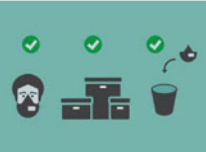



Evaluation & selection of respirators Before you can select respirators you need to determine what respiratory risks your facility has. The most common respiratory risk in healthcare settings is infectious diseases, however you need to evaluate for other risks as well.

The potential of exposure is not limited to physicians, nurses, and support personnel in direct patient care. It extends to those delivering food, cleaning patient rooms, and performing maintenance. Anyone working in areas with patients infected with airborne-transmissible diseases is potentially at risk.

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Medical Evaluation The OSHA Respiratory Protection standard (29 CFR 1910.134) requires that employees be medically evaluated and cleared for respirator use prior to wearing a respirator or being fit tested.

Medical evaluations must be provided by the employer during work time and at no cost to the employee.

The details of any medical evaluation, including specific medical diagnoses or test results, should not be shared with the employer or supervisor.

Your program should include a clear policy as to what will be done if someone is not cleared for respirator use.



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Fit Testing OSHA requires annual fit testing (29 CFR 1910.134)

Fit testing usually takes 15-20 minutes.

Why at least annually? NIOSH research shows that 10% failed a fit test after 1 year using the same make, model and size respirator therefore need to select a different respirator and to be retested.






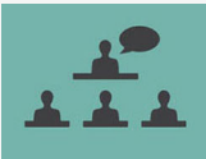
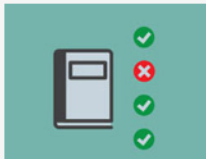
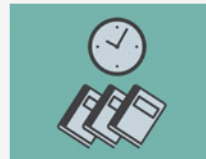
Someone may need to fit test sooner if their mask make/model is no longer available or if they have had significant weight gain or loss, or facial changes caused by extensive dental work, scarring, trauma or cosmetic surgery.

Do you have resources to keep up with fit testing for your staff?

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Proper Use, Storage, Maintenance, Repair, Disposal The respiratory protection program administrator should assure that manufacturer recommendations are addressed for the selected respirators. This information needs to be available to the managers and wearers to optimize personal protection.

There is a lot of important information to include with this section-however we will need to do a separate session to address them. Reviewing instructions for use of your available products will get you started!

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Training







The written program must include both the mechanism for getting everyone trained in a way that they can understand and a description of the curriculum, including all of the topics that are required by the standard to be covered. These are:

- Why the respirators are necessary (including when it must be worn);
- Why proper fit, usage, and maintenance is crucial to its effectiveness;
- What the limitations and capabilities of the respirator are;
- Hands-on demonstration of how to inspect, put on, remove, use, and check the seal of the respirator;
- What the procedures are for storage and maintenance;
- How to recognize medical signs or symptoms that limit or prevent the safe, effective use of respirators;
- The general requirements of the OSHA Respiratory Protection standard;
- How to identify and react to respirator malfunctions; and
- How to use the respirator in emergencies(e.g., chemical release) if appropriate.

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Program Evaluation

Regular program evaluation is required by the standard and is critical to successful implementation. There should be a section in your written program that describes how you will evaluate the implementation and effectiveness of your program. The standard does not require this to be done at specific intervals (i.e., annually). Instead, it requires that the workplace be evaluated as necessary to ensure that the provisions of the written program are being implemented effectively. It also requires that employers regularly consult with their employees to assess their views on the effectiveness of the program.

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Recordkeeping

- Written RPP
- Program evaluation documentation
- Employee medical evaluations
 - *must be maintained for 30 years after termination of employment.
- Fit test record must include:
 - Name or employee ID;
 - Type of fit test performed;
 - Specific make, model, style, and size of respirator tested;
 - Date of test; and
 - Pass/fail result from qualitative test or printout from quantitative test.

My facility doesn't have a RPP or I've been given this task to review & update, where do I start?

- Start by obtaining a thorough understanding of the OSHA standard. Today you just received an overview.
 - <https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1910/1910.134>
- Utilize templates:
 - NIPF & multiple state health department websites have templates and toolkits available to download.
- OSHA and Project Firstline websites have education videos and fact sheets regarding respiratory protection that can help aid in understanding key concepts and be utilized in your staff training plan.
 - <https://www.osha.gov/respiratory-protection/training>
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/projectfirstline/resources/videos.html>
 - Episode 13: What is a respirator?
 - Episode 14: What is an N95?
 - Episode 15: How should I test the seal on my N95?



Open Office Hours

Additional
Information sharing



NHSN

Updates & Information



Modifications to the Long-term Care Facility COVID-19/Respiratory Pathogens Module and the COVID-19/Respiratory Pathogens Vaccination Module.

The changes described are now visible within the NHSN application. These updates became effective beginning the week of December 17, 2023. Resources on the [NHSN LTCF COVID-19/Respiratory Pathogens Module](#) webpage and the [COVID-19/Respiratory Pathogens Vaccination Modules](#) webpage have been updated, where indicated, with revised forms, instructions, FAQs, and CSV templates.



NHSN continued

Geolocation

- The geolocation function is now available within the application. To complete this item, select the icon on the alerts page that is labeled “Facility Geolocation.”

Point of Care (POC) Test Reporting Tool

- No enhancements

State Veterans Homes COVID-19 Event Reporting Tool

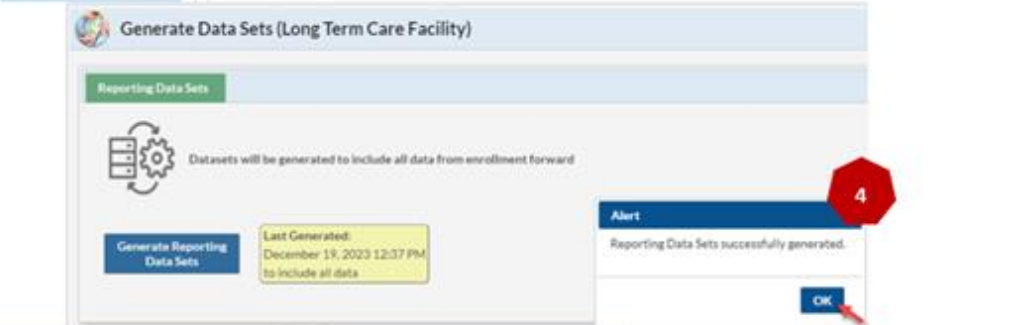
- No enhancements



1 - National Healthcare Safety



2 Generate Data Sets (Long Term Care Facility)

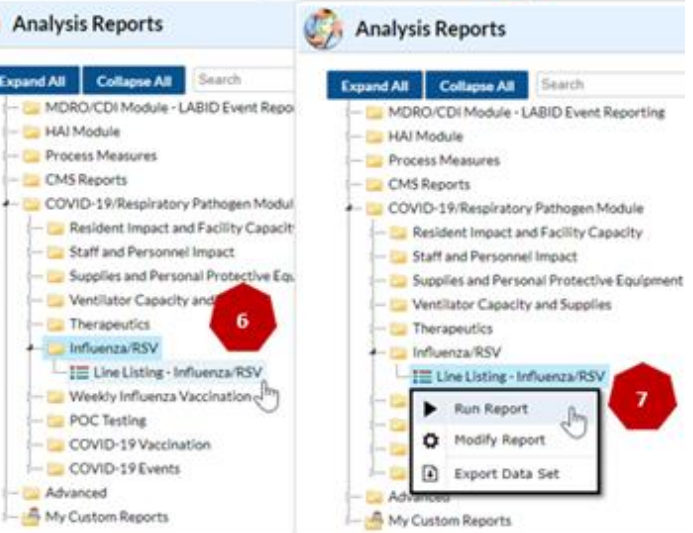


COVID-19/Respiratory Pathogens Pathway Data Reporting

Optional Influenza/RSV Tab

NEW! Data reported to the optional Influenza/RSV tab can now be viewed as a report/line list by using the Analysis tab within the application. The analysis function is a tool that can be used to view data reported to NSHN. Please note, reporting to the Influenza/RSV tab is **OPTIONAL**.

NHSN - National Healthcare Safety



COVID-19/Respiratory Pathogens Vaccination Influenza and RSV Line List Report for Residents

New! You can now use the Influenza / RSV line listing report to review your facility's data (or your group's data) submitted for weekly reporting of Influenza and RSV vaccination rates for residents. These data are included in the line list "Line Listing: All COVID-19 Vaccination Cumulative Summary Data – Residents" found under COVID-19 Module > COVID-19 Vaccination in the analysis tab within the NHSN application.

COVID-19/Respiratory Pathogens Vaccination Summary Form Changes for Healthcare Personnel

New! Form changes take place 1/1/2024 (Quarter 1, 2024)

- Questions related to COVID-19 primary series vaccination will be removed
- The question about HCP being up to date with COVID-19 vaccination (formerly Question #4) is moved up on the form to Question #2
- Questions 3.1-3.3 will now refer to those who are not up to date in Question #2
- HCP should not be considered up to date for COVID-19 vaccination unless they received the updated 2023-2024 COVID-19 vaccine



COVID-19/Respiratory Pathogens Vaccination Trainings

Webinar dates posted below and on the website under the “Announcement Section”

Initial Session: Thursday, January 4th

When: January 4, 2024 1:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Topic: Updates to Weekly COVID-19 Vaccination Healthcare Personnel Summary Form: Long Term Care Component

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://cdc.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_3CPOEhCYQp-bEXz1JexBaA

Replay Session: Tuesday, January 9th

When: January 9, 2024 2:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Topic: Updates to Weekly COVID-19 Vaccination Healthcare Personnel Summary Form: Long Term Care Component

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://cdc.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_woL3InfGQkKXa8mCK26_-w

Replay Session: Tuesday, January 16th

When: January 16, 2024 1:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Topic: Replay: Updates to Weekly COVID-19 Vaccination Healthcare Personnel Summary Form: Long Term Care Component

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://cdc.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_TZHB8MsHQ0atRx9N3tNRuA#/registration

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. Recordings are not shared or available to the public post event.

2024 NHSN Protocol and Training Events

Mark your calendars!

NHSN Protocol and Training Team is excited to continue our Ask the Experts series – Mark your calendars for Jan. 17, 2024 to hear 2024 Protocol Updates and Feb. 21, 2024, to ‘Get Annual Training Ready.’

As a reminder, NHSN Protocol and Training Team (PaTT) will be facilitating a 60-minute, monthly education webinar series, “Ask the Expert”.

This can be a brief overview of the main topic based on your submitted questions or we may jump right into answering questions. These sessions are used to provide clarity on NHSN Patient Safety Component (PSC) protocols and resources.

Audience:

- PSC users - acute care or other short-term stay hospitals (for instance, general hospitals, critical access hospitals, oncology hospitals, military/VA hospitals)
- Long-term Acute Care Hospitals (LTACH)
- Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities (IRF)
- Inpatient Psychiatric Facilities (IPF)

All PSC Users are invited; however, the conversation will be geared to newer NHSN users, 3 years or less.

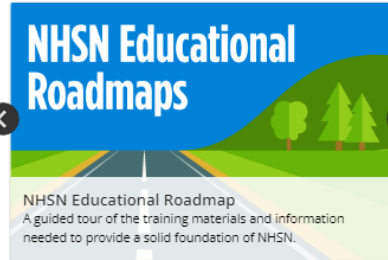
These Q & A sessions will be conducted on the 2nd or 3rd Wednesday of the month at 2:00 pm eastern standard time and will address a different topic each month. The registration information will be emailed prior to each session.














NHSN Training Resources

Our mission is to offer learning opportunities in a variety of formats that enhance the knowledge and skills of NHSN facility- and group-level participants and their partners in order that they may effectively use the data obtained from the surveillance system to improve patient and healthcare personnel safety.

Objectives

- Convey NHSN data collection methods, submission requirements, and analysis options to participants so that they may acquire, submit, and disseminate high quality, actionable data.
- Prepare participants to use the NHSN reporting application accurately and efficiently.
- Enhance participants' and their partners' understanding of data quality and the value of adverse event monitoring.
- Encourage collaboration among participants and partners to improve the patient and healthcare personnel safety across the spectrum of care.



Patient Safety Component  Self-paced Interactive Trainings, Annual Training Videos and Quick Learns	Biovigilance Component  Self-paced Interactive Trainings, Annual Training Videos and Quick Learns	 2023 NHSN Training - Videos and Slides 2023 Annual Training and link to the 2023 page
Healthcare Personnel Safety Component  Self-paced Interactive Trainings, Annual Training Videos and Quick Learns	Long-term Care Facility Component  Self-paced Interactive Trainings, Annual Training Videos and Quick Learns	 Resources for Users New to NHSN Self-paced training for new NHSN enrollment and existing facility set-up.
Dialysis Component  Self-paced Interactive Trainings, Annual Training Videos and Quick Learns	Outpatient Procedure Component  Self-paced Interactive Trainings, Annual Training Videos and Quick Learns	 NHSN Educational Roadmap A guided tour of NHSN training materials and information.
Neonatal Component  Self-paced Interactive Trainings, Annual Training Videos and Quick Learns		 NHSN Analysis Self-paced training for introductory and advanced NHSN analysis.
		 Continuing Education Free CE available for all NHSN education course work.
		 Request CDC Led Training Webinar / In-person training policy and request.

NHSN provides component specific, self-paced training videos and Quick Learns to provide additional guidance and support. You can access all trainings and more by visiting <https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/training/index.html>



NHSN

- **Questions?** Brenda Davis (bdavis@kfmc.org) and Kim Byers (kbyers@kfmc.org) are our LTC NHSN experts, don't hesitate reach out!
- **Reminder:** if you haven't already started tracking your staff, volunteer, student influenza vaccination stats, start now! it is best if you track it throughout the reporting period rather than trying to gather it at the deadline!





Other Updates & Information

Viral Respiratory Pathogens Toolkit for Nursing Homes

<https://www.cdc.gov/longtermcare/prevention/viral-respiratory-toolkit.html>

The screenshot shows the CDC website interface. At the top, there is a search bar and a language selector. Below that, the CDC logo and tagline are visible. The main navigation bar includes "Nursing Homes and Assisted Living (Long-term Care Facilities [LTCFs])". The breadcrumb trail reads "CDC > Long-term Care Facilities (LTCFs) > Infection Prevention Tools". The left sidebar contains a menu with "Long-term Care Facilities (LTCFs)" expanded, showing sub-items like "Clinical Staff Information", "Be a Safe Resident", "Infection Prevention Tools", "Viral Respiratory Pathogens Toolkit", "Core Elements of Antibiologic Stewardship", "Infection Prevention Training", "Infection Prevention Success Stories", and "Health Department Resources for LTCFs". The main content area is titled "Viral Respiratory Pathogens Toolkit for Nursing Homes" and includes a "Print" link. Below the title, there is a section for "ACTION: PREPARE for respiratory viruses (e.g., SARS-CoV-2, influenza, RSV)" followed by a list of bullet points detailing preparation steps.

PREPARE for respiratory viruses

RESPOND when a resident or HCP develops signs or symptoms of a respiratory viral infection

CONTROL respiratory virus spread when transmission is identified

& LOTS OF RESOURCES!



Get Connected with Infection Preventionists!

National Infection Prevention Forum Aims to Foster Collaboration in LTC

- <https://www.ahcancal.org/News-and-Communications/Blog/Pages/New-National-Infection-Prevention-Forum-Aims-to-Foster-Collaboration-in-LTC.aspx>
- **How to get started:** To enroll in this national forum, all you need is an email address and password. Instructions for enrolling are available [here](#). If you have questions, please contact LTC-NIPFhelp@ahca.org.

APIC Kansas Chapters

<https://apic.org/member-services/about-membership/>

- Greater Kansas City Chapter (Metropolitan Kansas City, in both Kansas & Missouri)
- Heart of America Chapter (Northeast and North Central Kansas)
- Wichita Area Chapter (South Central & Western Kansas)



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Better health outcomes for everyone.