



LONG-TERM CARE QUICK START GUIDE: PREPARING FOR RESPIRATORY VIRUS SEASON



When [respiratory viruses](#) are spreading in the community, the risk for spread in long-term care (LTC) settings including nursing homes increases as well. Existing infection prevention and control measures can help prevent and slow the spread of [flu](#), [RSV](#), and [COVID-19](#) to protect residents and staff. Preparing and responding to respiratory viruses in LTC settings requires a comprehensive approach that includes infection prevention, testing, vaccination, and treatment.

Below are some helpful CDC links to bookmark for the 2023 respiratory virus season.

Infection Prevention and Testing

Implement recommended infection prevention and control practices in the facility. Be aware when respiratory virus levels are increasing in the community and ensure access to respiratory viral testing with rapid results.

Guidance and Recommendations:

- [Preventing Transmission of Viral Respiratory Pathogens in Healthcare Settings](#)
- [Viral Respiratory Pathogens Toolkit for Nursing Homes](#)
- [Testing and Management Considerations for Nursing Home Residents with Acute Respiratory Illness Symptoms when SARS-CoV-2 and Influenza Viruses are Co-circulating](#)
- [Infection Control: Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 \(SARS-CoV-2\)](#)
- [Interim Guidance for Influenza Outbreak Management in Long-Term Care and Post-Acute Care Facilities](#)

Resources:

- **Poster:** [Infection Control Actions for Respiratory Viruses](#)
- **Masking Signage for LTC:** [Wear A Mask Illustration](#) and [Wear A Mask Photo](#)
- **Project Firstline:** [Infection Control Actions for Respiratory Viruses | Project Firstline](#)

Vaccination

Provide recommended flu, RSV, and COVID-19 vaccines to residents and staff and encourage visitors to be vaccinated.

Guidance and Recommendations:

- [ACIP Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Recommendations](#)
- [ACIP RSV Vaccine Recommendations](#)
- [Healthcare Providers: RSV Vaccination for Adults 60 Years of Age and Over](#)
- [ACIP COVID-19 Vaccine Recommendations](#)
- [Clinical Guidance for COVID-19 Vaccination](#)

Resources:

- **Immunization Schedules:** [Immunization Schedules for Healthcare Providers](#)
- **Shared Clinical Decision-Making Handout:** [RSV Vaccination for Adults 60 Years and Older](#)
- **Flu and COVID-19 Vaccine Coadministration:** [Getting a Flu Vaccine and a COVID-19 Vaccine at the Same Time](#)
- **Fact Sheet:** [People 65 Years and Older Need a Flu Shot](#)

Treatment

Provide residents timely access to treatment and/or prophylaxis for flu and COVID-19.

Guidance and Recommendations:

- [Influenza Antiviral Medications: Summary for Clinicians](#)
- [Interim Clinical Considerations for COVID-19 Treatment in Outpatients](#)

Resources:

- **Poster:** [What You Should Know About Influenza \(Flu\) Antiviral Drugs](#)
- **Job Aid:** [COVID-19 Therapeutics Decision Aid](#)
- **Chart:** [Side-by-Side Overview of Therapeutics Authorized or Approved for the Prevention of COVID-19 Infection or Treatment of Mild to Moderate COVID-19](#)

Reporting to the National Healthcare Safety Network

Data nursing homes report to CDC's National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) are critical to understanding the impact of COVID-19 and COVID-19 vaccination in older adults, as well as supporting efforts to prevent infections.

- [Long Term Care HCP & Resident COVID-19 Vaccination INHSN](#)
- [COVID-19 Module | LTCF | NHSN](#)