

California Department of Public Health (CDPH) & Partners Statewide Nursing Home Webinar—Resources and Links August 13, 2026

Health Services Advisory Group (HSAG) Updates

- **HSAG Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement (QAPI) Performance Improvement Project (PIP) Playbook:** www.hsag.com/qapi
- **HSAG Rounding Tools:** https://www.hsag.com/qapi#Leadership_Oversight_and_Rounding_Tools
- **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) QSO-26-14-NH:** CMS Nursing Home Risk-Based Survey (RBS) national implementation launches September 8, 2026. Higher-performing facilities will get a more focused survey and smaller survey team. CMS will refresh the RBS list quarterly, and a trophy icon for approximately 180 (15%) California nursing homes will appear on Care Compare.
- **Workforce Recruitment and Retention Webinar:** October 2, 2026, 1p.m. PT; www.hsag.com/OctQAPI
- Share your questions or topic ideas for the November 12 webinar by emailing nursinghomes@hsag.com.

California Association of Long Term Care Medicine (CALTCM) Updates

- **CALTCM Medical Director Program for California Medical Directors:**
 - <https://www.caltcm.org/caltcm-medical-director-program-for-california-medical-directors>
 - California law requires medical directors to be certified by January 1, 2027.
 - CALTCM Honor Roll: List of California Certified Medical Directors (https://www.caltcm.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=704:caltcm-honor-roll--california-cmd-s&catid=22:news&Itemid=111)
- **CALTCM Infection Preventionist Orientation “On-Demand” Program**
 - Register: <https://www.caltcm.org/infection-preventionist-orientation-program2>
 - **Module 1**—Infection Preventionist Duties and Outcome Surveillance (1:08 minutes)
 - **Module 2**—Process Surveillance and Antibiotic Stewardship (45 minutes)
 - **Module 3**—Occupational Health & Immunization Program (43 minutes)
 - **Module 4**—Infection Preventionist Resources and Tools (25 minutes)
- **CALTCM Summit for Excellence:** <https://www.caltcm.org/2026-caltcm-summit-for-excellence>
 - September 24–26, 2026, Paradise Point, San Diego, CA.
 - Dynamic keynote presentations, interactive case discussions, and hands-on “In-the-Trenches” sessions to explore the latest advances in clinical care, artificial intelligence, quality improvement, behavioral health, inclusive care, regulatory compliance, and leadership.

CDPH Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAI) Program Updates

- CDPH Project Firstline Resources: www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/Pages/ProjectFirstline.aspx
- CDPH Project Firstline Training Toolkit for Environmental Services (EVS) Staff: www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/Pages/ProjectFirstlineEVSToolkit.aspx
- CDPH Adherence Monitoring Webpage for Health Care Practices: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/Pages/MonitoringAdherenceToHCPracticesThatPreventInfection.aspx>
 - Hand Hygiene Adherence Monitoring Tool: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/Pages/MonitoringAdherenceToHCPracticesThatPreventInfection.aspx#Hand>
 - EVS Adherence Monitoring Tool:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/Pages/MonitoringAdherenceToHCPracticesThatPreventInfection.aspx#Environmental>

- Contact HAIProgram@cdph.ca.gov for more information.

CDPH Immunization Branch Updates

- CDPH Public Health for All—Immunization Recommendations:
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/publichealth4all/vaccines.aspx>
- CDPH Easy Immunization (EZIZ) Health Education—Long-Term Care Resources:
<https://eziz.cdph.ca.gov/training/resources/ed-ltc/>
- CDPH EZIZ Health Education—Influenza Resources: <https://eziz.cdph.ca.gov/training/resources/ed-flu/>
- CDPH Flu Vaccine ID Guide: <https://eziz.cdph.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/docs/IMM-859.pdf>
- CDPH Office of Communications: Respiratory Viruses Toolkits:
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/OPA/Pages/Communications-Toolkits/Respiratory-Viruses-Toolkits.aspx>
- U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) COVID-19 Vaccines (2026–2027 Formula) for Use in the United States Beginning in Fall 2026: https://www.fda.gov/vaccines-blood-biologics/industry-biologics/covid-19-vaccines-2026-2027-formula-use-united-states-beginning-fall-2026?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery
- FDA Influenza Vaccine Composition for the 2026–2027 U.S. Influenza Season:
<https://www.fda.gov/vaccines-blood-biologics/vaccines/influenza-vaccine-composition-2026-2027-us-influenza-season>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Vaccine Guidance for Adults: https://www.cdc.gov/rsv/hcp/vaccine-clinical-guidance/adults.html#cdc_cg_special_populations_health_outcomes-overview

CDPH COVID Control Branch Updates

- CDPH Respiratory Viruses Hub:
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Respiratory-Viruses/Home.aspx>
- CDPH HAI Program Recommendations for Prevention and Control of COVID-19, Influenza, and Other Respiratory Viral Infections in California Skilled Nursing Facilities—2025–26
https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/CDPH%20Document%20Library/CA_RecsPrevControlRespVirus_SNFs.pdf
- CDPH All Facilities Letter (AFL) 23-29: COVID-19 Treatment Resources for Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs): <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/Pages/AFL-23-29.aspx>
- CDC Current Epidemic Trends
<https://www.cdc.gov/cfa-modeling-and-forecasting/rt-estimates/index.html?tab=0>
- CDC COVID-19 Treatment Clinical Care for Outpatients:
<https://www.cdc.gov/covid/hcp/clinical-care/outpatient-treatment.html>
- CDC Types of COVID-19 Treatments <https://www.cdc.gov/covid/treatment/index.html>
- CDC Infection Prevention and Control Strategies for Seasonal Influenza in Healthcare Settings
<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/hcp/infection-control/healthcare-settings.html>

Questions & Answers

Q: Are facilities still able to receive free COVID-19 and flu test kits?

A: CDPH is no longer distributing free test kits. Please check with your local health department to determine whether any test kits are currently available.

Q: Can expired antigen tests still be used?

A: It depends on the specific test. Some COVID-19 antigen tests have received FDA-authorized expiration date extensions. Visit the FDA's At-Home Over-the-Counter (OTC) COVID-19 Diagnostic Tests webpage to determine whether your test's expiration date has been extended: <https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/coronavirus-covid-19-and-medical-devices/home-otc-covid-19-diagnostic-tests>.

Q: Is testing required for asymptomatic residents with known exposure to COVID-19?

A: Yes. Per CDPH guidance, asymptomatic residents with a known COVID-19 exposure should be tested for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) no earlier than 24 hours after exposure and, if negative, again on day 3 and day 5 after exposure. Quarantine is generally not required for asymptomatic exposed residents; however, they should wear a mask when outside their room for 10 days following exposure, even if tests are negative within those 10 days. Testing for influenza, RSV, or other non-COVID respiratory viruses is generally not recommended for asymptomatic individuals.

- Refer to CDPH's Recommendations for Prevention and Control of COVID-19, Influenza, and Other Respiratory Viral Infections in California Skilled Nursing Facilities for complete guidance (https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/CDPH%20Document%20Library/CA_RecsPrevControl_RespVirus_SNFs.pdf).
- CDC Guidance: <https://www.cdc.gov/covid/hcp/infection-control/index.html>

Q: For healthcare personnel (HCP) who test positive for COVID-19, how long do they need to stay off work in a nursing home?

A: Per [CDPH AFL 25-01](#), HCP with COVID-19 should not return to work until at least 3 days have passed since symptom onset (or since their first positive test if they remain asymptomatic), at least 24 hours have passed with no fever without fever-reducing medication, symptoms are improving, and they feel well enough to return to work. After returning to work, they should wear a face mask in resident care and common areas of the facility for 10 days following symptom onset or their positive test.

- CDC Infection Control Guidance: SARS-CoV-2 (<https://www.cdc.gov/covid/hcp/infection-control/index.html>)
- Recommendations for Prevention and Control of COVID-19, Influenza, and Other Respiratory Viral Infections in CA SNFs 2025–26: Work exclusion is not routinely recommended for HCP who have had close contact with someone with COVID-19 (https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/CDPH%20Document%20Library/CA_RecsPrevControl_RespVirus_SNFs.pdf).
- California Occupational Safety and Health Administration (Cal/OSHA) COVID-19 Guidance and Resources: As of February 3, 2026, there will no longer be a specific set of regulatory requirements relating to COVID-19 prevention in the workplace (<https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/coronavirus/>).
- [CDPH AFL 25-28](#) Recommendations for Prevention and Control of COVID-19, Influenza, and Other Respiratory Viral Infections in California Skilled Nursing Facilities—2025–26 (distributed October 7, 2025): This AFL will be updated soon, likely in September 2026.

Q: Do COVID-19 positive residents still need to isolate for 10 days?

A: Yes. Refer to CDC Interim Guidance for Managing Healthcare Personnel with SARS-CoV-2 Infection or Exposure to SARS-CoV-2 updated March 18, 2024 (<https://www.cdc.gov/covid/hcp/infection-control/guidance-risk-assesment-hcp.html>).

Q: Do newly admitted/readmitted residents need to be tested on admission?

A: No. Admission testing in nursing homes is at the discretion of the facility per CDC guidance updated on June 24, 2024 (<https://www.cdc.gov/covid/hcp/infection-control/>).

Q: Do we still need to screen new admissions every shift for 14 days?

A: No. Facilities should monitor residents for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 based on clinical judgment and the resident's condition. During periods of increased COVID-19 activity in the community or facility, additional monitoring may be appropriate. For example:

- Monitor vital signs daily for COVID-19 negative or recently recovered residents.
- Monitor vital signs, including pulse oximetry, every shift for asymptomatic residents with a known COVID-19 exposure.
- Monitor vital signs, including pulse oximetry, every 4 hours for residents who are COVID-19 positive and in isolation.

HSAG is the West Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Quality Innovation Network-Quality Improvement Organization (QIN-QIO) Region 7.

This material was prepared by Health Services Advisory Group (HSAG), a Quality Innovation Network-Quality Improvement Organization (QIN-QIO) under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Views expressed in this material do not necessarily reflect the official views or policy of CMS or HHS, and any reference to a specific product or entity herein does not constitute endorsement of that product or entity by CMS or HHS. Publication No. CA-13SOW-XC-08242026-01