

SNF IP Monthly Feature

April 2024

Urgent Updates

Increase in Invasive Serogroup Y Meningococcal Disease in the United States

The CDC alerts clinicians to a surge in invasive meningococcal disease, primarily due to *Neisseria meningitidis* serogroup Y. In 2023, the U.S. reported 422 cases, the highest since 2014. Healthcare providers are urged to heighten suspicion for meningococcal disease, especially among vulnerable populations. To read this full communication, visit the Los Angeles Health Alert Network (LAHAN) at: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/eprd/lahan/alerts/CDCHANMening032824.pdf>.

Increase in Global and Domestic Measles Cases and Outbreaks

The CDC advises clinicians to ensure children and international travelers are vaccinated against measles, amid rising global and U.S. cases. SNFs may want to check that their residents are vaccinated as well, as they may have children or international travelers as visitors and are vulnerable to infection. Immediate reporting of suspected cases to Public Health is vital. To read this full communication, visit the LAHAN at: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/eprd/lahan/alerts/CDCMeaslesHAN031824.pdf>.

Respiratory Virus Surveillance in LA County

As we continue to monitor respiratory virus activity in LA County, we note a decline in influenza, COVID-19, and RSV cases. However, it's crucial to remain vigilant. Notably, influenza B is now prominent, which can contribute to late-season illness. Stay informed about the latest updates on influenza vaccine effectiveness and recommendations for COVID-19 boosters, and subscribe to RespWatch, our county respiratory virus surveillance dashboard: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/RespWatch/index.htm>.

Additional COVID-19 Vaccine Recommended for Adults Ages 65 and Older

The CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has recently recommended an additional dose of the 2023-24 COVID-19 vaccine for adults aged 65 years and older. This dose of the vaccine aims to bolster protection that may have waned since the fall vaccine dose, providing added defense against severe disease. Please see the LAC DPH COVID-19 Vaccine Schedule: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/ncorona2019/vaccine/schedules/>. Having a second dose of the 2023-2024 vaccine 4 months after the last is the new definition of being up to date for adults 65 years and older when reporting in NHSN.

Standardized Infection Prevention and Control Policy and Procedure Templates

Access standardized templates developed by the LAC DPH Long-Term Care Facilities (LTCF) Team to bolster infection prevention practices in SNFs. Access the templates on our SNF website under "Infection Prevention and Control Policy Templates" at <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/SNF/index.htm>, scroll down to "3. Infection Prevention and Control Policy Templates" and open the dropdown menu to find the pdfs.

Educational Opportunities & Webinars

2024 Joint Commission Standards for Infection Control

Learn about the new standards effective July 1, 2024, in a webinar hosted by the National Emerging Special Pathogens Training and Education Center. [Register](#) for the webinar to learn about key changes and strategies for compliance.

Ask an IP – May 8, 2024

Join LAC DPH ACDC's IP team for Ask an IP, a monthly series on infection prevention in SNFs. Every second Wednesday from 1:30 - 2:30 pm. Find slides and recordings on the Ask an IP webpage: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/AskAnIPProgram/index.htm>. To register, access the Webex link: <https://lacountyph.webex.com/webappng/sites/lacountyph/webinar/webinarSeries/register/84aa9c6aa93448af9d426bf2d1e889d2>.

Project Firstline

LAC DPH offers FREE infection prevention and control training for all staff. Visit www.ProjectFirstLineLACounty.com for details.