

SNF IP Monthly Feature

May 2024

Urgent Updates

Respiratory Virus Surveillance in LA County

The activity of respiratory viruses, including flu, COVID-19, and RSV, is on the decline in Los Angeles County. It's important to remain vigilant, especially with the changing patterns of respiratory illnesses.

Updated Masking Requirements

With the end of the Respiratory Virus Season Health Officer Order on April 30th and low CDC hospitalization levels, unvaccinated healthcare personnel are no longer required to mask at all times in patient care areas. Standard precautions, including wearing a well-fitting mask around symptomatic individuals, are still strongly recommended. For more information, visit [CDC Standard Precautions](#).

Health Services Advisory Group (HSAG) No-Cost Clinics

Health Services Advisory Group (HSAG) recently partnered with local pharmacies statewide to provide certain vaccines (including COVID-19 and pneumonia) at no cost. This partnership aims to ensure that all skilled nursing facility (SNF) residents and staff, regardless of insurance status, have access to the protection offered by vaccination. [Request vaccine assistance here](#).

Lead Poisoning from Vietnamese Hemorrhoid Ointment

A fatal case of lead poisoning in Sacramento linked to Cao Bôi Trĩ Cây Thầu Dầu, a hemorrhoid ointment from Vietnam, has been reported. Healthcare providers should urge patients to stop using this product and get a blood test immediately. For more details, see [CDPH Advisory](#).

Standardized Infection Prevention and Control Policy and Procedure Templates

The LAC DPH Long-Term Care Facilities (LTCF) Team developed standardized templates to enhance infection prevention practices in SNFs. For more information and to access these templates for facility use, please visit the [SNF website](#) and navigate to the "Infection Prevention and Control Policy Templates" section.

Educational Opportunities & Webinars

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Webinar

Overcoming COVID-19 Vaccine Payment Challenges: *Thursday, May 30, 2024 | 11 a.m.-12 noon PT*. [Register here](#).

HSAG and California Association of Long-Term Care Medicine (CALTCM) Webinars

Vaccine Office Hours With the Experts: *Select Thursdays | Next Session: May 23 | 12 noon–1 p.m. PT*. [Register here](#).

NHSN and HSAG HAI Office Hours

NHSN and HAI Office Hours: *3rd Tuesdays | Next Session: May 21 11:30 a.m.–12 noon PT.* [Register here.](#)

California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Infection Prevention Webinars

California Department of Public Health Infection Prevention Webinar: *Next Session: Wednesday, June 5 | 3-4 p.m. PT.* Receive important updates from the CDPH Team on CDC's Enhanced Barrier Precautions (EBP) referenced in [CMS QSO-24-08-NH](#). (Note: this webinar was originally scheduled for May 29 and has been moved to June 5). Additionally, HSAG will present on NHSN and methods for SNFs to request a vaccine clinic. [Register here.](#)

Project Firstline

LAC DPH offers 11 self-paced infection prevention and control training for all staff. To register visit www.ProjectFirstLineLACounty.com .