

Transforming Nursing Home Care Together (TNT) Program

Week # 7 (Unit 2) Questions and Answers

Didactic Session #7: (11/16/2022)

Question:	What is the recommended number of times per week that Hand Hygiene adherence audit should be done?
Answer:	The facility should work towards a goal number of hand hygiene (HH) observations each week or each month. For example, reasonable goals include 30 HH observations for the whole facility per month OR, if broken down by units, 30 HH observations per month on the subacute unit plus 20 observations per month from all other units. Importantly, all staff regardless of employment status (registry, contract, volunteer, student) and regardless of department (housekeeping/EVS, laundry, dietary, activities, PT/OT/rehab, nursing, medical providers, social work, administration, etc.) must be included in HH observations.

Question:	Where can I find the Transmission Based Precautions posters?
Answer:	Transmission Based Precaution posters from LAC DPH can be found on the following website: http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/SNFTransmissionBasedPrecautions.htm

Question:	Is it IP nurse's responsibility to fill out the ATB surveillance form?
Answer:	Please reference your facility's policies as well as the Facility's Infection Preventionist's job description and required duties as the responsibility depends on the individual facility.

Question:	Where can I get assistance with COVID-19 guidance?
Answer:	COVID guidance related questions should be directed to our email contact LTC_NCoV19@ph.lacounty.gov . Please take advantage of TNT Didactic sessions, Small Groups, and Office Hours to connect with our team of experienced infection preventionists on general infection prevention and control.

Question:	Since the new Health Officer guidelines state that there is no need to quarantine residents regardless of vaccination status and no need to quarantine any close contact regardless of vaccination status but need to have 3 series of rapid test. Do we still need to have cohorts in the facility (Green, Yellow, Red zone)?
Answer:	Since local guidance from LAC DPH is more strict than the latest AFL (All Facilities Letter) from CDPH on COVID-19 testing, quarantine, and isolation (https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/Pages/AFL-22-13.aspx), SNFs in LA County must still follow local guidance: http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/ncorona2019/healthfacilities/snf/prevention/ .

	<p>SNFs can and should implement guidance from the state’s AFL that is more strict. For example: serially testing 3 times on days 0, 3, and 5 after admission where day of admission is day 0.</p> <p>Please note, the LAC DPH SNF Health Officer Order does not currently say that there is no need to quarantine residents or close contacts regardless of vaccination status.</p>
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Question:	Is there a website for the storyboards?
Answer:	<p>Storyboards are very similar to QAPI boards. The websites to learn more about creating storyboards are listed below. These websites can also be found on the TNT Website (http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/TNTProgram.htm) Resources section within a week following the Didactic session #7.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating Effective Storyboards (Public Health Foundation) • Quality Improvement Storyboard (Minnesota Department of Health) • Quality Improvement Storyboard (The Health Alliance of Northern California) (Shasta Community Health Center)

Question:	Will we be having a TNT Didactic session next week?
Answer:	Yes, we will have our final Didactic session for Unit 2 next Wednesday, 11/23/22.

Question:	Where can I get the quiz link for Session 6 if I did not receive an email?
Answer:	<p>Session quiz links will be available on the TNT Website within 1 week following each session. Due to IT updates, the session 6 links and materials are being delayed but should be posted by 10/22/22.</p> <p>If you prefer not to wait, please email TNEducation@ph.lacounty.gov to request the link.</p>

Question:	Can I have the link to make up a missed Small Group session?
Answer:	All Designated Participants from facilities that have missed their Small Group session have received an invitation to a makeup session. If you have not received an invitation, please email TNEducation@ph.lacounty.gov immediately.

Question:	Is there a makeup session for last Wednesday TNT Didactic session?
Answer:	<p>No, there are no makeup sessions for Didactic sessions. If none of the Designated Participants attended the live Didactic session, the facility will not receive credit for that session. However, each Designated Participant is still eligible to receive CEU or Certificate of Completion if they watch the recording of that session, and successfully pass the post-session evaluation quiz.</p> <p>The recordings, slides and quiz links can be found on the TNT Website: http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/TNTProgram.htm</p>

Question:	How long do we have to complete the quizzes?
Answer:	All Unit 2 quizzes will close on Wednesday, 11/30/2022 at 5pm. After that time, no submissions will be permitted.

Office Hour

Question:	A challenge we have during the winter season is holding indoor visitation as we have no large outdoor areas. For residents under quarantine in the Yellow Cohort (COVID cohorting), how should we facilitate visitation for 2 different residents at the same time in one indoor common area?			
Answer:	<p>Please see Table 1: Visitation Infection Prevention & Control Requirements in LAC DPH's Guidelines for Preventing & Managing COVID-19 in Skilled Nursing Facilities:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;">Location of Visit</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outdoor visitation is preferred whenever practical and if the outdoor visitation area is easily accessible without needing to go through other zones/cohorts. Large indoor spaces that allow for ≥6 ft physical distancing with good ventilation should be offered as an alternative when outdoor visitation is not practical (e.g., inclement weather, poor air quality, inability to move resident outside). Visits for residents who share a room should be conducted in a separate indoor space or with the roommate not present regardless of the resident's or roommate's vaccination status. </td> <td style="border: 2px solid red;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indoor visitation should preferably be conducted in-room or if it must be conducted in an indoor common area, then it should be alone between the resident and their visitor(s) without any other residents present or visitation taking place. Outdoor visitation is another option when it's practical for the resident and if the outdoor visitation area is easily accessible without needing to go through other zones/cohorts. </td> </tr> </table>	Location of Visit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outdoor visitation is preferred whenever practical and if the outdoor visitation area is easily accessible without needing to go through other zones/cohorts. Large indoor spaces that allow for ≥6 ft physical distancing with good ventilation should be offered as an alternative when outdoor visitation is not practical (e.g., inclement weather, poor air quality, inability to move resident outside). Visits for residents who share a room should be conducted in a separate indoor space or with the roommate not present regardless of the resident's or roommate's vaccination status. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indoor visitation should preferably be conducted in-room or if it must be conducted in an indoor common area, then it should be alone between the resident and their visitor(s) without any other residents present or visitation taking place. Outdoor visitation is another option when it's practical for the resident and if the outdoor visitation area is easily accessible without needing to go through other zones/cohorts.
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Question:	If a patient is taking pain medications, how would we consider that an infection is a Healthcare Associated Infection (HAI) based on McGeers?
Answer:	If a patient is taking pain medications, the medications could affect the clinical presentation by 1) masking the fever or 2) affecting their mental status. Acetaminophen, NSAIDs (ibuprofen, naproxen, ketorolac, celecoxib, etc.), or pain medicines that contain acetaminophen (opioid/acetaminophen combos) could mask fevers; opioids can cause or worsen delirium, aka altered mental status. This can make it more difficult to determine if there is an infection. Separately, determining if an infection is a healthcare associated vs. a community acquired depend on the length of time the person has been in the facility or the hospital before being diagnosed with an infection. If it has been long enough that the person has been in the facility or hospital, it would be more likely to be a healthcare associated infection.

Question:	If both the visitor and the resident are up-to-date with their COVID-19 vaccine and would like to do a visit outdoors, can they both unmask?
Answer:	“All residents, visitors, and staff participating in communal dining or group activity, regardless of vaccination status, should wear well-fitting face masks when not actively eating or drinking, whether indoors or outdoors.” http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/ncorona2019/healthfacilities/snf/prevention/#groupactivities

Question:	Should eye protection (goggles or face-shields) be worn at all times or during patient care only in the Green Zone?
Answer:	Per the current SNF guidance, staff must wear face shield or goggles for eye protection in all zones.