

Transforming Nursing Home Care Together (TNT) Program

Week 1 (Unit 3)

Questions and Answers

Question:	Can you enumerate again what you are looking for during an ICAR visit?
Answer:	ICARs are meant to identify gaps in infection prevention practices. LAC DPH IPs and nurses use the same adherence monitoring tools from CDPH: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Environmental cleaning and disinfection</u>: click here and here to access.• <u>For Fluorescent marker</u>: click here to access.

Question:	Where can we find a fluorescent marker assessment tool?
Answer:	To access CDPH adherence monitoring tool for Fluorescent marker, please click here .

Question:	Is it alright to use gloves in the hallway when handling dirty linen containers?
Answer:	It depends on the entire workflow of handling dirty linen. We recommend you meet with your Infection Preventionist and environmental services team to walk through this process and decide on the proper protocol. Example: If dirty linen can be stored and covered within a transportation cart, then once staff finish storing the dirty linen, they should doff gloves and perform hand hygiene- meaning they are not wearing gloves in the hallway. Staff can then transport the dirty linen to the receiving linen area. Staff should perform hand hygiene and don a new set of gloves before transferring the dirty linen to the holding bin or washing machine. The transportation cart should be stocked with additional hand hygiene and PPE in case they are needed during the transportation route.

Question:	Where can we find the education about auditing and direct feedback?
Answer:	Auditing just means checking if staff are doing things correctly. You can use the CDPH adherence tools for that. The website with all of the different adherence tools can be found on the TNT website (click here), but can also be found on the CDPH website (click here). For help with how to provide feedback, click here to access a presentation from the CDC.

Question:	Do you have infographics on the correct cleaning process we can access on the TNT website?
Answer:	The correct cleaning sequence (from clean to dirty/contaminated) was reviewed as part of Session 6 in Unit 2 on "Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection." The slides and recording for this session along with all prior sessions in TNT are posted on the TNT website (click here), <u>Below are the direct links to Unit 2, Session #6:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Recording</u> – Click here• <u>Slides</u> – Click here

Question:	Cleaning supplies must be all EPA approved, correct?
Answer:	The EPA requires that products that include pesticides to be registered with the EPA. This includes disinfectants (products that kill or stop the growth of pathogens such as viruses, bacteria and fungi). Cleaning products are detergents - they help remove debris from surfaces. Cleaning products that do not have pesticides or disinfectants do not require EPA registration.

Question:	How do we navigate issues with N95 Fit testing when staff have beards?
Answer:	<p>It is important to first read through and understand the CAL-OSHA Aerosol Transmissible Disease Standard. It is also important to read through N95 fit testing instructions. N95 respirators must create a seal around the employee's mouth and nose. Unfortunately, facial hair breaks that seal and can allow airborne particles to pass through the N95 respirator. Therefore, staff who are required to be fit tested (due to their role [e.g., clinical] or described in skilled nursing facility infection prevention guidance) may not have facial hair that breaks the N95 respirator seal. Staff who are not fit tested should not wear N95 respirators. Staff can don alternative PPE: surgical mask or PAPR (power air-purifying respirators).</p> <p>We suggest educating staff on N95 respirators, the CAL-OSHA ATD standard, and on airborne infectious disease transmission. Some facilities include fit testing/facial hair compliance language within their general staff policies. Facilities may offer acceptable alternatives such as a PAPR.</p> <p>Another option would be to place staff with facial hair in non-clinical care work areas of the facility, or to not have them work with residents who are suspected or positive with an airborne infection.</p>

Question:	Why did COVID-19 move from droplet to airborne precaution?
Answer:	<p>As we learn more about the virus, the things we do have to change. We have learned that it is not droplet as we once thought, it is airborne. So now, in addition to contact and droplet precautions, we also have to put in place airborne precautions. What does that mean? That means gloves and gowns (contact), face shield/goggles/eye protection (droplet), and N95 masks (airborne).</p> <p>To see all of that mentioned in our novel respiratory precautions sign, click here.</p>

Question:	Where do we report if 911 paramedics do not follow masking policies?
	<p>Please email us at LTC_NCoV19@ph.lacounty.gov with as much information as you can obtain. You can call dispatch to get the station number and which vehicle it was, you can give us the date and time the paramedics came, you can also call the vendor and speak to their supervisor.</p>

EVS Project

Question:	I started the project, but I am not sure if I did it correctly. What should I do?
Answer:	<p>A great frame of reference for practices that we monitor for adherence or often times are the source for a performance improvement project for EVS/housekeeping is the adherence monitoring tool from CDPH. Link here to access it.</p>

Question:	We are beginning to work on our PIP for the Environmental Cleaning and Disinfecting. How can we get assistance on best practices/protocols/policies and procedures for sequence of cleaning and disinfecting?
Answer:	<p>There is a CDPH adherence monitoring tool for EVS/housekeeping that has several questions or best practices that should be observed with regards to Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection. This would be a great tool to use to see what can already be improved upon or serve as the focus for a PIP. Link here to access it.</p> <p>You may also reach out to our team at TNT if you have further questions, or may attend our office hours every Friday from 1:00pm – 1:30pm.</p>

TNT Program Logistics

Question:	Why didn't our facility receive a TNT Goodie bag?
Answer:	Goodie bag distribution is still ongoing. If you have not yet received yours, you will receive it within the next few weeks.

Question:	The project due at the end of Unit 3, is it one per facility or one per Designated Participant?
Answer:	<p>The final project, due at the end of Unit 3, is one per facility. Designated Participants may and should work together on the project, but only one submission per facility is necessary at the end of the program.</p> <p>Please email your final project by 5pm on Monday, February 27, 2023 to the following email address: TNEducation@ph.lacounty.gov</p>

Question:	Do we need more than one Designated Participant from each facility to attend the TNT sessions, or is it okay if only one attends?
Answer:	Attendance of only one Designated Participant per facility during both Didactic and Small Group sessions is required in order to meet minimum attendance requirements. However, it is strongly recommended that more than one Designated Participant attend.

Question:	Can you share the slides with information on project due date?
Answer:	<p>The presentation slides are included in the Didactic session reminder email sent to everyone the day before the Didactic session. The slides will also be uploaded to the TNT Website within 1 week following each session.</p> <p>The Final Project will be due on <u>Monday, February 27, 2023 by 5pm</u>. Submissions must be emailed to TNEducation@ph.lacounty.gov</p>

Question:	What should I do if I have not received my Certificates for TNT attendance?
Answer:	<p>If you have any questions about certificates, please email TNEducation@ph.lacounty.gov</p> <p>For any emails regarding discrepancies on certificates, please allow up to a week for us to review the records and get back to you. If it has been longer than that and you have not received a response, please send us another email with your concern.</p>