

Transforming Nursing Home Care Together (TNT) Program

Week # 6 (Unit 3)

Questions and Answers

Question:	Does National and Local APIC have the same educational opportunities?
Answer:	No, National APIC offers opportunities such as annual conferences, online courses, free guides you can download, access to AJIC (American Journal of Infection Control), and more. Local APIC chapters get to focus on the needs of their individual chapter, including educational opportunities that members request and vote on. Local chapters offer regular meetings (e.g., monthly, quarterly) with educational presentations. They may offer an annual conference or in-person events with neighboring chapters that include educational offerings as well.

Question:	Which of the following are guidance, regulatory, or enforcement agencies: CDC, OSHA, CMS?
Answer:	OSHA and CMS are regulatory bodies that set and enforce standards. The CDC is a guidance body that provides evidence-based IPC recommendations.

Question:	Can LACDPH provide guidance on how to handle a situation when 911 paramedics (Los Angeles) respond to the facility and either do not wear a mask or refuse to wear it when we request or offer it to them? Is there an email address where we can send an inquiry about this?
Answer:	Please send the following information to LTC_NCoV19@ph.lacounty.gov as soon as it happens: 1) name of the ambulance company or firefighter jurisdiction name (e.g., LA County vs LA City, Pasadena, Torrance, etc.) and battalion number, 2) date and time when the situation occurred, 3) name of your skilled nursing facility. The more details provided, the better we can follow up with their regulatory body.

Question:	Are Infection Preventionists (IPs) often the leader for the QAPI committee?
Answer:	No, typically the QAPI Lead is undertaken by a different staff, e.g., a dedicated nurse, coordinator or director to oversee the QAPI committee. IPs should be involved in the committee, but they should not oversee all QAPI committee functions since QAPI covers many other areas outside of infection prevention & control including, but not limited to, medication safety/errors, falls, resident rights, high anti-psychotic medication usage, restraints, etc.

Question:	Can we, as IPs, request for an assistant?
Answer:	Yes, absolutely. You can and should make a case for the need of additional staff in your IPC (infection prevention and control) department. You may need to find out how to officially request this at your facility and be sure to include supporting evidence as to why you need an additional 0.5 or 1.0 FTE. Examples of supporting evidence include, but are not limited to: the CDPH IP requirement, a list of your duties and time spent performing them, examples of conflicting meetings or time constraints that negatively affected your workflow, trends in direct observations (quantity, quality), the need for extra coverage during vacations, illness, etc., benefits to having more than one staff in your IP department (increased IP presence on the floor, increased direct observations and interventions, staff retention, improved HAI surveillance, etc.), and last but not least LAC DPH's slide in this week's Didactic session showing that the majority have a team of at least 2 IPs.

Question:	Are Infection Preventionists (IPs) a part of department meetings?
Answer:	Yes. IPs should have a strong presence at department meetings to listen to concerns, issues or updates and to provide those departments with IP updates, support and guidance. This is an example of how to strengthen relationships and communication between staff and IPs.

Question:	Can you post all the transmission-based precaution signage links on the TNT website?
Answer:	Transmission-based Precautions link is currently on the TNT Website . It can be found under Resources --> Website Resources. For direct link to the Transmission-based Precautions signage, click here .

TNT Program Logistics:

Question:	What topics are SNFs doing their A3 Project on.
Answer:	SNFs may choose to work on various topics based on the needs of their facility; however, for the TNT A3 Final Project, the project must be on Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection.

Question:	When does the TNT Program end?
Answer:	The TNT Program is still ongoing. The last Didactic session will be held on Wednesday, 03/08/23 and the last Office Hour will be on Friday, 03/10/23.

Question:	How can we access the slides for TNT?
Answer:	All slides can be found on the TNT Website within one week following each Didactic session.