

# Transforming Nursing Home Care Together (TNT) Program

## Week # 4 (Unit 2) Questions and Answers

### Didactic Session: (10/26/22)

<b>Question:</b>	<b>Will the UTI Criteria be posted on the TNT Website?</b>
<b>Answer:</b>	Yes, the McGeer Criteria will be posted on the <a href="#">TNT Website</a> within one week following the session. It can be found in the <a href="#">Resources</a> Section under <a href="#">Website Resources</a> .  Please bookmark the TNT Website and revisit the <a href="#">Resources</a> section to download any of the tools and resources that are shared during the TNT Didactic sessions.

<b>Question:</b>	<b>What type of chlorhexidine is advisable to use for MDROs like <i>C. auris</i> or CRAB (Carbapenem-Resistant <i>Acinetobacter baumannii</i>)? Wipes or wash? 2% or 4% chlorhexidine?</b>
<b>Answer:</b>	Routine patient bathing with a 4% chlorhexidine gluconate (CHG) solution increases patient comfort and may reduce HAIs over 2% CHG-impregnated wipes.  <b>The antimicrobial CHG soap kills vegetative cells, and manual removal of soap and water eliminates <i>C difficile</i> spores in a way that disposable wipes cannot.</b> Bathing patients with a 4% CHG solution has been shown to decrease the incidence of central catheter– associated bloodstream infections and infections with multidrug-resistant organisms (MDROs) and <i>C difficile</i> . Ultimately, every facility should use the product and the process that best ensures routine (daily, every other day, etc.) CHG bathing is well adhered to by both the residents and staff as indicated.  References: <a href="https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5233479/">https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5233479/</a> , <a href="https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5253275/">https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5253275/</a>

<b>Question:</b>	<b>Do you have any literature in Spanish?</b>
<b>Answer:</b>	LACDPH Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Training resources with various modules and handouts for Skilled Nursing Facilities can be found <a href="#">here</a> .

<b>Question:</b>	<b>Where can we find the A3 form?</b>
<b>Answer:</b>	A3 Project template can be found on the <a href="#">TNT Website</a> in the <a href="#">Resources</a> section under <a href="#">Tools</a> .  Please bookmark the website and re-visit to download any tools you need that will be shared during the Didactic sessions.

<b>Question:</b>	<b>Will Public Health request all facilities to use the A3 Project Form?</b>
<b>Answer:</b>	Yes. All SNFs participating in TNT should use the A3 form to guide through both the hand hygiene and the EVS/environmental cleaning performance improvement projects (PIPs) in

	Units 2 and 3 correspondingly. A3 form submission is recommended for Unit 2's hand hygiene PIP and required for Unit 3's environmental cleaning PIP. Unit 2's hand hygiene A3s can be submitted via <a href="mailto:TNEducation@ph.lacounty.gov">TNEducation@ph.lacounty.gov</a> .
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<b>Question:</b>	<b>Do you have literature about the COVID-19 bivalent vaccine in Spanish, Korean, and Cantonese (written language is Traditional Chinese)?</b>
<b>Answer:</b>	For bivalent booster FAQs and posters in non-English languages, please check out <a href="#">LAC DPH's COVID-19 Vaccine Resources and Information</a> which has FAQs and posters in 12 languages other than English – Spanish, Korean, Traditional Chinese, Simplified Chinese, Arabic, Armenian, Cambodian, Tagalog, Farsi, Japanese, Vietnamese, Russian. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) also has “Updated COVID Vaccines <a href="#">Toolkit</a> ” in English and Spanish.

<b>Question:</b>	<b>Is there a plan for LA County to mandate the COVID-19 bivalent vaccine for all HCP (healthcare personnel)?</b>
<b>Answer:</b>	<p>There is currently no plan to mandate the COVID-19 bivalent vaccine for HCP (healthcare personnel). However, the COVID-19 bivalent vaccine is strongly recommended for everyone 5 years and older who are at least 2 months out from completion of the primary series or their last monovalent booster dose (1). This is especially true for HCP caring for one of the most vulnerable populations, SNF residents. Getting “up to date” with all recommended COVID-19 vaccines and booster doses (getting the bivalent booster) is the best tool to protect your staff, their families, and your SNF residents from suffering poor outcomes from SARS-CoV-2 infection like hospitalization, long-haul COVID-19, and death as well as potentially other outcomes from severe infection in older adults like accelerated functional decline (2, 3, 4).</p> <p>Public Health will be following up with SNFs with low coverage of the bivalent booster for staff, residents, or both. Please administer the bivalent booster to as many of your staff and residents now to give them the best protection prior to this winter's surge.</p> <p>References</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. “Stay Up to Date with COVID-19 Vaccines Including Boosters”, CDC. Accessed 11/2/22: <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html">https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html</a></li> <li>2. Oliver, S. “Evidence to Recommendations Framework: Bivalent COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Doses”, <i>ACIP Meeting September 1, 2022</i>. Accessed 11/2/22: <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/acip/meetings/downloads/slides-2022-09-01/08-COVID-Oliver-508.pdf">https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/acip/meetings/downloads/slides-2022-09-01/08-COVID-Oliver-508.pdf</a></li> <li>3. McConeghy, K. W., et. al. “Effectiveness of a Second COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Dose Against Infection, Hospitalization, or Death Among Nursing Home Residents — 19 States, March 29–July 25, 2022,” <i>MMWR</i>. Accessed 11/2/22: <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/wr/mm7139a2.htm?s_cid=mm7139a2_w">https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/wr/mm7139a2.htm?s_cid=mm7139a2_w</a></li> <li>4. Prampart, S., et. al. “Functional decline, long term symptoms and course of frailty at 3-months follow-up in COVID-19 older survivors, a prospective observational cohort study”, <i>BMC Geriatrics</i>. Accessed 11/2/2022: <a href="https://bmcgeriatr.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12877-022-03197-y">https://bmcgeriatr.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12877-022-03197-y</a></li> </ol>

<b>Question:</b>	<b>Will you email us the answers to the questions that do not get answered during the Didactic session?</b>
<b>Answer:</b>	All questions and answers will be compiled into a Questions and Answers (Q&A) document, which will be available on the <a href="#">TNT Website</a> under each week's materials. Q&A will be posted on the website within one week.

	The Q&A for the previous week will also be attached to the Didactic session reminder email sent to the Designated Participants.
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<b>Question:</b>	<b>Can you send the link to the post-session evaluation quiz?</b>
<b>Answer:</b>	The post-session evaluation quiz will always be shared in the chat during the end of the Didactic session. It will also be emailed to all Designated Participants after the Didactic session and will be uploaded to the <a href="#">TNT Website</a> within one week.

<b>Question:</b>	<b>For those who are interested in joining the Special Session on 11/4/22, how do they register?</b>
<b>Answer:</b>	<p>You will not be required to register for the Special Session. Please see here for the meeting link for the <b>TNT Special Session on “Data Hygiene: COVID-19 CDPH 123 Survey Reporting” this Friday, November 4th, 2022 from 2:00pm to 3:00pm</b>. Please join the meeting using the link provided below and <b>enter your full name and email address to receive credit for your attendance</b>.</p> <p><a href="https://lacpublichealth.webex.com/lacpublichealth/j.php?MTID=mef6dac884a464efd5f3422162baac94b">https://lacpublichealth.webex.com/lacpublichealth/j.php?MTID=mef6dac884a464efd5f3422162baac94b</a></p> <p>Meeting number: 2596 278 5634 Password: a3BbBGq2At2</p> <p>Join by phone +1-213-306-3065 United States Toll (Los Angeles) +1-415-655-0001 US Toll Access code: 259 627 85634</p> <p>We are happy to share that <u>Continuing Education Units (CEUs)</u> (for licensed attendees) and <u>Certificates of Completion</u> (for non-licensed attendees) will be offered for anyone who attends the live webinar session or watches the webinar recording AND successfully passes the post-session evaluation quiz. The session recording and quiz will be available on the <a href="#">TNT Website</a> and the <a href="#">SNF COVID-19 webpage</a> within one week after the session. The quiz will close on <b>Wednesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> at 4pm</b> and no other submissions will be accepted after that time.</p>

<b>Question:</b>	<b>Will the special session be recorded and uploaded like the Didactic sessions are?</b>
<b>Answer:</b>	Yes, the special session will be recorded and will be uploaded to the <a href="#">TNT Website</a> within one week following the session. The post-session evaluation quiz will also be available on the TNT Website.

<b>Question:</b>	<b>Where should I email if I have questions about the CDPH 123 Survey?</b>
<b>Answer:</b>	For questions about the CDPH 123 Survey, please email <a href="mailto:COVID-LTC-Test@ph.lacounty.gov">COVID-LTC-Test@ph.lacounty.gov</a>

### Small Group

<b>Question :</b>	<b>SNFs whose staff are not accepting the bivalent vaccine, what approaches are being used to have better success?</b>
<b>Answer:</b>	<p>Here are some approaches that TNT Small Group participants and other SNFs in LA County have shared:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Implementing an “opt out” consent policy where all residents who are eligible will be notified directly or via their surrogate decision makers that they will receive their next dose in a primary series or a new booster dose per the CDC and ACIP unless the resident or surrogate decision maker lets the facility know they choose not to receive it or “opt out.” This may be more effective than the traditional “opt in” strategy that most SNFs employ but achieves the same goal of getting consent.</li> <li>2) Making an event out of it: one facility was able to get a larger number of residents vaccinated by rolling around a vaccination cart, visibly showing other residents getting vaccinated, and celebrating it in a positive way. This convinced other residents who originally chose not to get boosted to get the new bivalent booster.</li> <li>3) Some facilities permit their staff who are boosted with the bivalent vaccine to wear surgical mask as opposed to an N95 mask.</li> <li>4) Leadership gets vaccinated and models that behavior for staff.</li> </ol> <p>Please check out LAC DPH’s one-pager flyer on <b><i>Best Practices for Improving COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage in Skilled Nursing Facilities</i></b> for more ideas and strategies:  <a href="http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/ncorona2019/docs/SNFVaccinationCoverageBestPractices.pdf">http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/ncorona2019/docs/SNFVaccinationCoverageBestPractices.pdf</a></p>

**Office Hour**

<b>Question:</b>	<b>If I am the main participant from my facility that attends the TNT program, but I have to go on a leave of absence, can my back-up IP attend instead of me?</b>
<b>Answer:</b>	Yes, a back-up IP may be designated to attend the program sessions. For any staff changes, temporary or permanent, please have your facility Administrator email <a href="mailto:TNEducation@ph.lacounty.gov">TNEducation@ph.lacounty.gov</a> as soon as possible.