

Guidance and responses were provided based on information known on 2/4/2021 and may become out of date. Guidance is being updated rapidly, so users should look to CDC and NE DHHS guidance for updates.

COVID-19 and LTC

February 4, 2021

NEBRASKA
Good Life. Great Mission.
DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



**Infection Control Assessment
and Promotion Program**

Presentation Information:

Panelists today are:

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Moderated by Marissa Chaney

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Slides and a recording of this presentation will be available on the ICAP website:

<https://icap.nebraskamed.com/covid-19-webinars/>

Use the Q&A box in the webinar platform to type a question. Questions will be read aloud by the moderator.

If your question is not answered during the webinar, please either e-mail it to NE ICAP or call during our office hours to speak with one of our IPs.

Continuing Education Disclosures

- 1.0 Nursing Contact Hour and 1 NAB Contact Hour is awarded for the LIVE viewing of this webinar
- In order to obtain nursing contact hours, you must be present for the entire live webinar and complete the post webinar survey
- No conflicts of interest were identified for any member of the planning committee, presenters or panelists of the program content
- This CE is hosted Nebraska Medicine along with Nebraska ICAP and Nebraska DHHS
- Nebraska Medicine is approved as a provider of nursing continuing professional development by the Midwest Multistate Division, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's (ANCC) Commission on Accreditation

Nebraska Coronavirus Map and Case Count

Updated February 3, 2021, 7:49 A.M. E.T.



	TOTAL REPORTED	ON FEB. 2	14-DAY CHANGE
Cases	191,678	457	-32% ↘
Deaths	2,022	5	-33% ↘
Hospitalized		305	-27% ↘

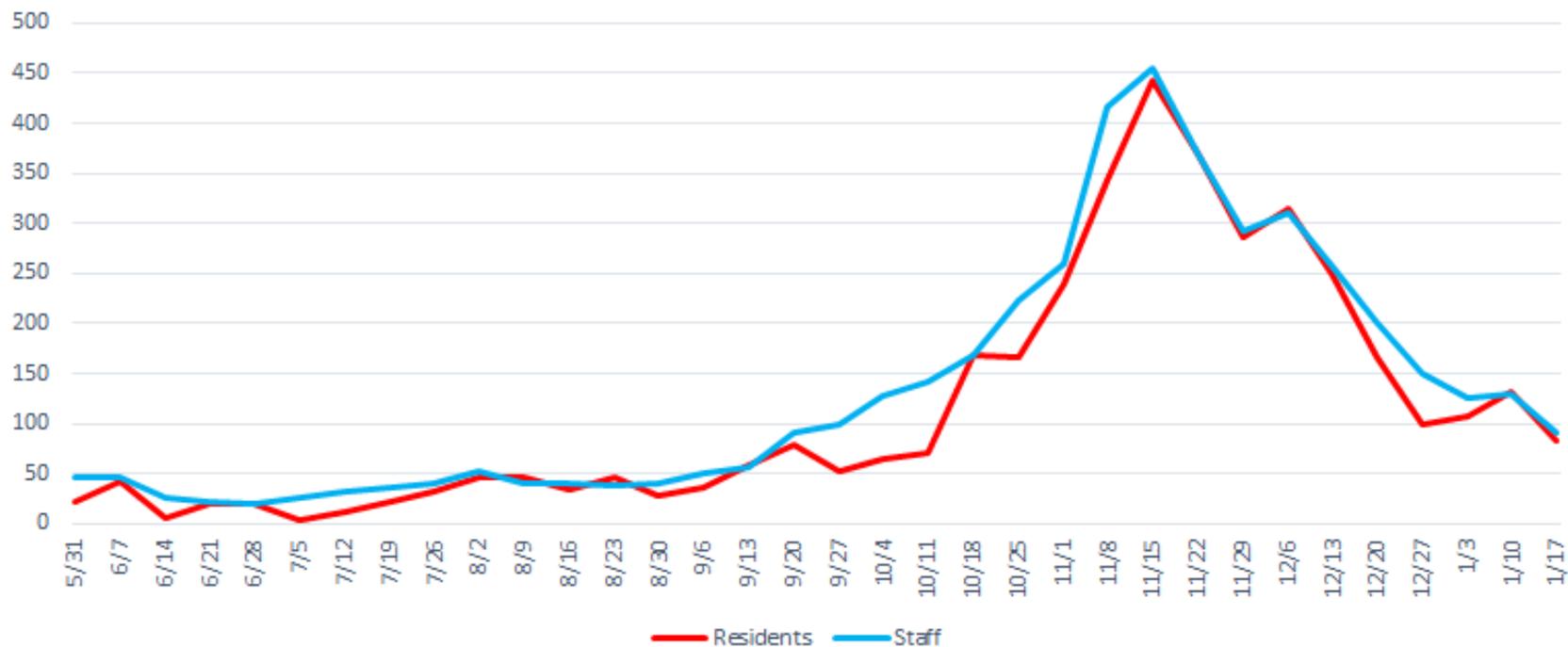
■ Day with reporting anomaly. Hospitalization data from the Covid Tracking Project; 14-day change trends use 7-day averages.

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/us/nebraska-coronavirus-cases.html>



LTCF Resident Weekly COVID Cases

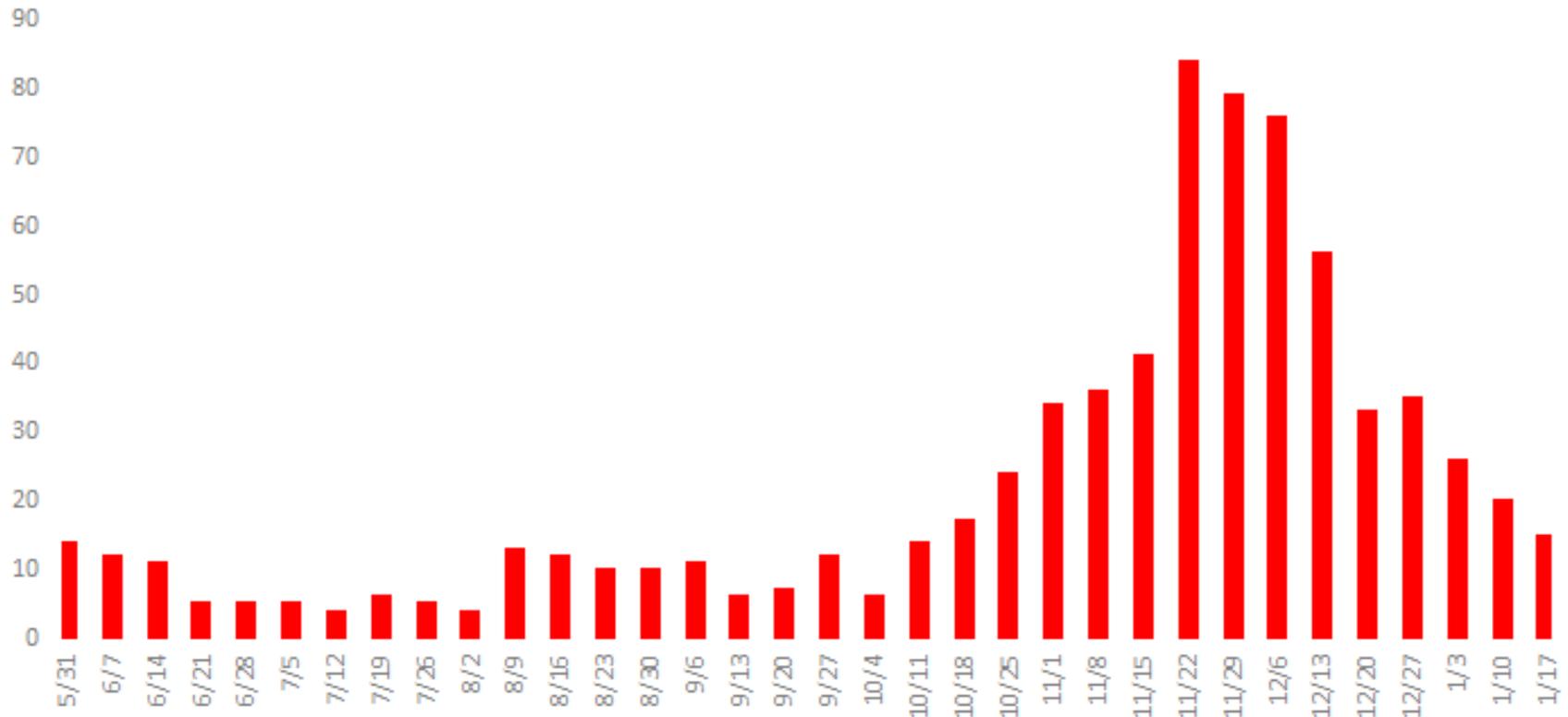
Nebraska LTCF COVID Positive Cases Weekly Through January 17 (CMS Data)



Data source: CMS; Nebraska ICAP Calculations

LTCF Resident Weekly COVID Deaths

Nebraska LTCF COVID Resident Deaths
Weekly Through January 17 (CMS Data)



Data source: CMS; Nebraska ICAP Calculations



Information and Media Literacy

Project Firstline



Background

- Many media outlets are reporting on the COVID-19 pandemic, the vaccine, and associated policies and politics. Some of these outlets promote drastically different points of view on these topics
- Social media platforms have also allowed both experts and non-experts to share their personal opinions on these topics worldwide
- It can be hard to differentiate between what information being shared via traditional and social media is trustworthy and accurate



Information and Media Literacy (IML)

- It is your right to be an informed citizen with access to accurate information
- Includes all types of information sharing:
 - Interpersonal communications
 - Traditional media (print, radio, and TV news)
 - Digital & social media
- IML consists of the knowledge and attitudes surrounding:
 - How to obtain reliable information
 - How to evaluate the information critically
 - How to share and use information in an ethical and responsible way

<https://library.redlands.edu/iml>



Critical Thinking

When looking at a media message consider the following critical thinking questions:

Who created the content?

- Are they a subject matter expert?
- Does this person or institution have a financial or other conflict of interest?

Why did they create the content?

- Who is the intended audience?
- What do the authors want to persuade you to believe or do?

What concrete information supports the message?

- Are reputable sources being cited?
- Does the author invoke anecdotes or high-quality data? Are they reporting first-hand or second-second experiences?
- Is the information being presented in a difficult to understand or misleading way? Were any details left out? Why?



Reputable Sources

How can you tell if information is coming from a reputable source?

- Has the author supplied references? Do references include scholarly sources?
- Is the information provided verifiable by an external source?
- Does the information contain statistics that can be verified?
- Is the language or tone opinion based?

What to avoid:

- Information with no reference list or verifiable information (do some fact checking)
- Information solely from non-expert sources (it is easy for anyone to post their opinion only)
- Information solely from sources with a history of presenting inaccurate or misleading presented data

<https://libanswers.snhu.edu/faq/104710>



Reputable Sources

- Subject matter experts: credible experts who are readily able to cite their source material and background on a topic
- Federal/ State/ Local Agencies:
 - Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
 - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
 - Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
 - Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)
- Major Professional Organizations (AMA, AAP, etc.)
- Large academic and health institutions (e.g., UNMC and ICAP!)



Quality of information:

Most reliable

Consensus statements and guidelines backed by high-quality scientific data and endorsed by major expert organizations (e.g., NIH guidelines on treatment of COVID-19)

Well-designed studies from major scientific journals that are being promoted by trusted experts (e.g., New England Journal of Medicine articles on COVID-19 vaccine trials)

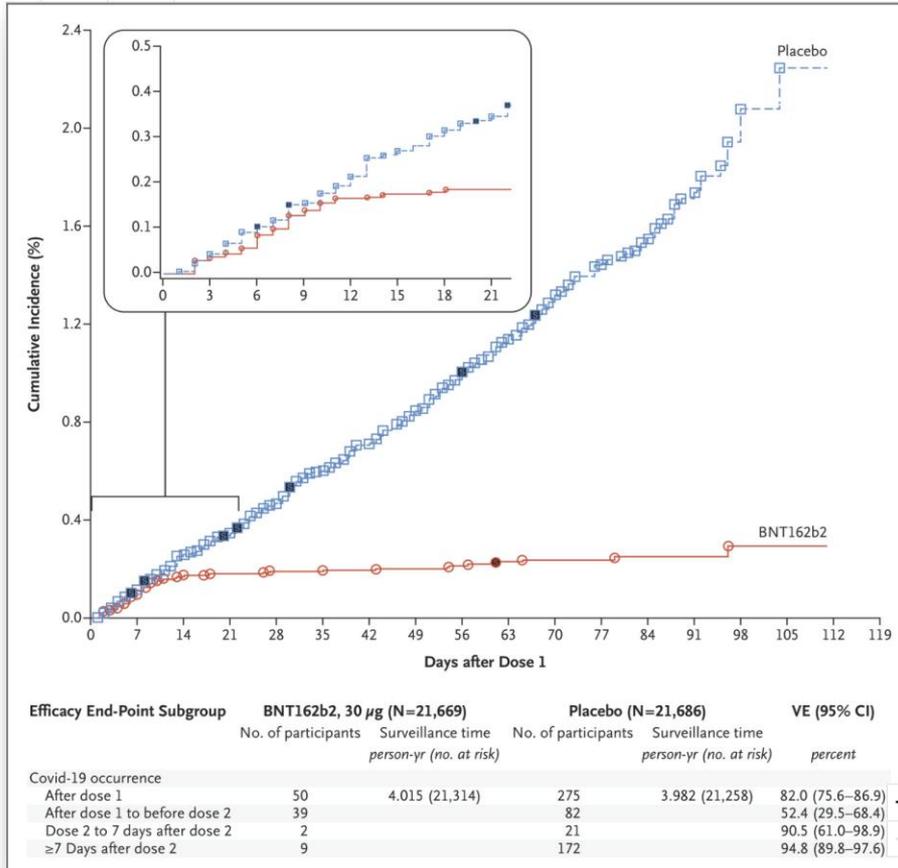
News reporting from credible sources that cites verifiable information and includes views from multiple subject matter experts; opinions from individual trusted subject matter experts who cite relevant data

Opinions from non-experts, especially when backed solely by anecdotes, second-hand accounts, or 'common sense' (e.g., "My friend on Facebook said that when she got the vaccine...")

Least reliable



Pfizer COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine

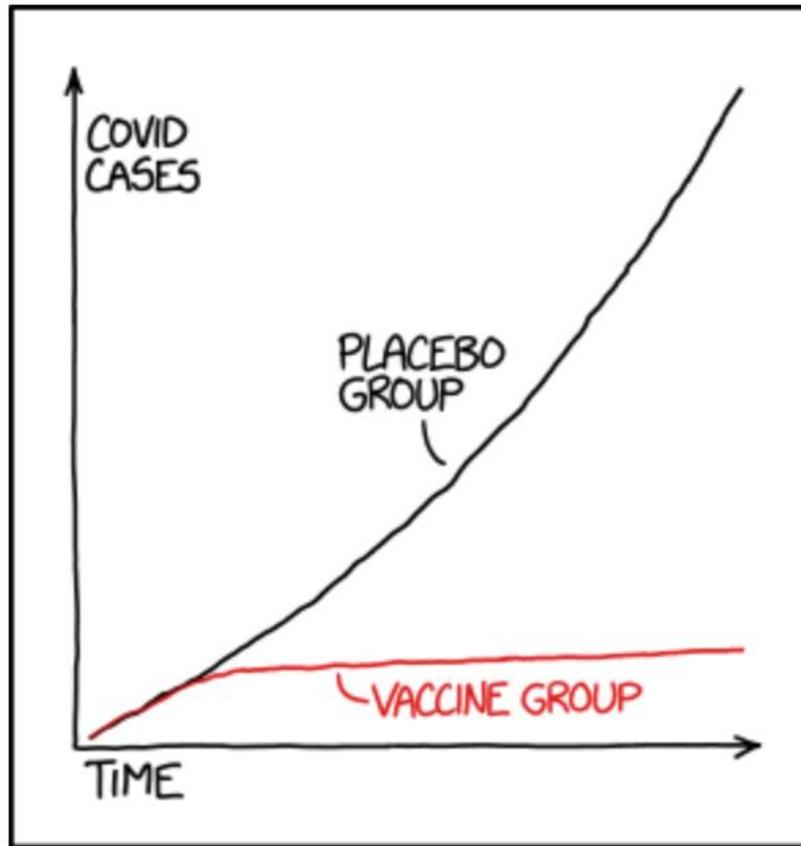


Pfizer released this survival curve as a part of their research on the efficacy of the BNT162b2 COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine.

You can read the full study at:
<https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa2034577>



Statistics

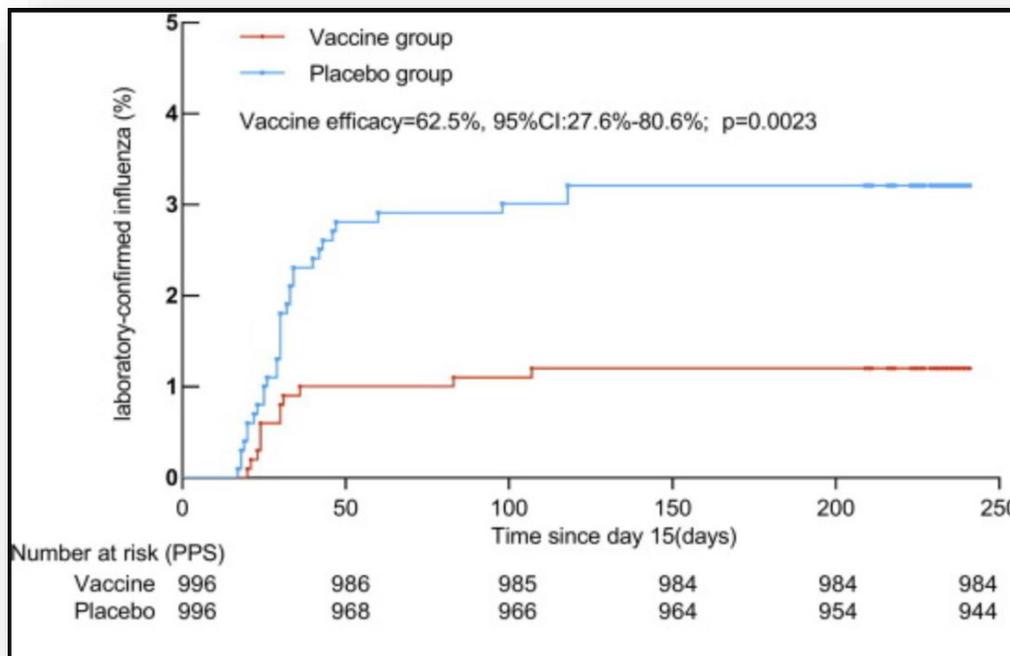


STATISTICS TIP: ALWAYS TRY TO GET DATA THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH THAT YOU DON'T NEED TO DO STATISTICS ON IT

https://www.explainxkcd.com/wiki/index.php/2400:_Statistics



Influenza Vaccine



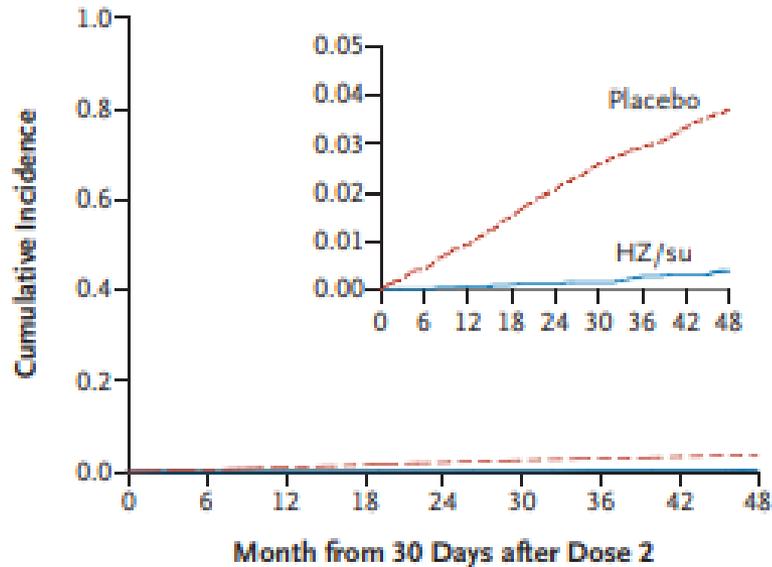
An independent study was done in China and released this survival curve as a part of their research on the efficacy of a live attenuated Influenza vaccine for children (3-17)

You can read the full study at:
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0264410X20309324>



GlaxoSmithKline Herpes Zoster Vaccine

D Total Vaccinated Cohort in ZOE-50 and ZOE-70



No. at Risk

HZ/su	8758	8436	8355	8177	8066	7865	7732	7499	5376
Placebo	8773	8463	8310	8077	7910	7693	7521	7276	5188

Cumulative No. of Cases

HZ/su	0	2	5	9	11	13	23	25	31
Placebo	0	39	81	128	173	215	244	275	300

GlaxoSmithKline released this survival curve as a part of their research on the efficacy of the HZ/su vaccine.

You can read the full study at:
[http://dro.deakin.edu.au/eserv/DU:30086550/athan-
 efficacyofthe-2016.pdf](http://dro.deakin.edu.au/eserv/DU:30086550/athan-

 efficacyofthe-2016.pdf)



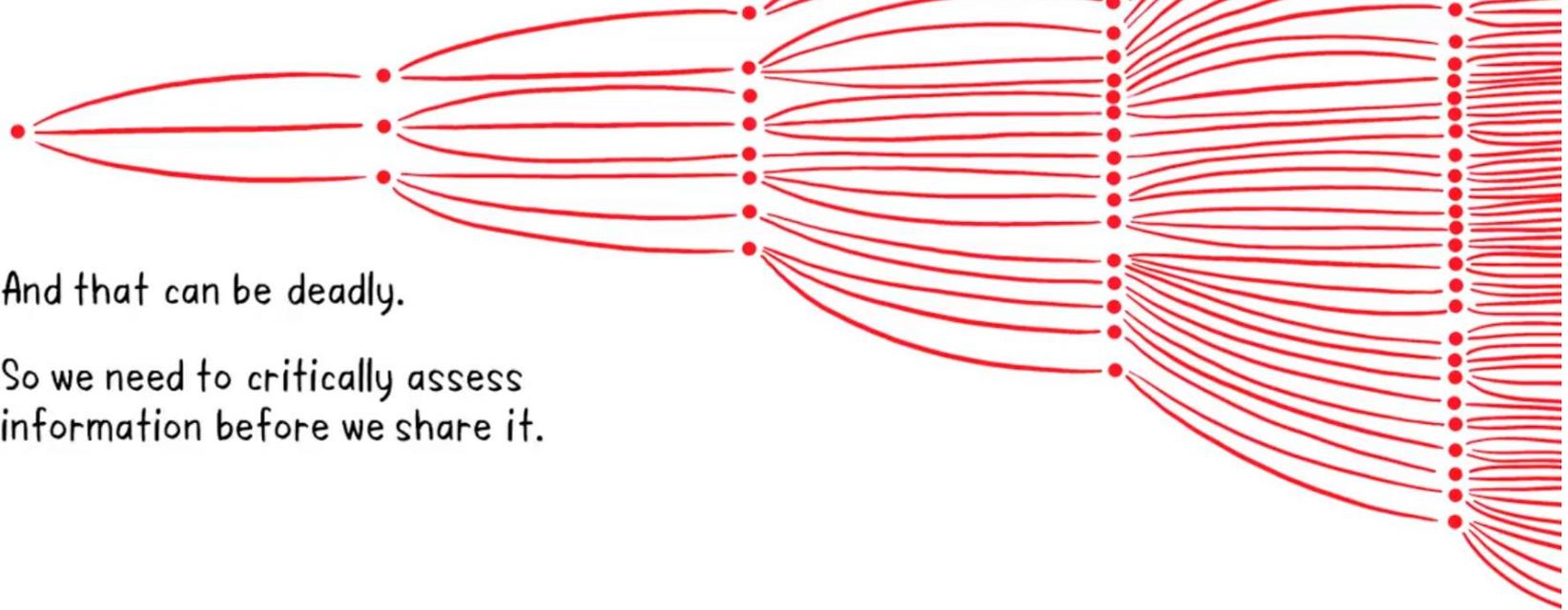
What can you do?

- Be aware that about 1 in 5 Americans get their news from social media
- You have a responsibility to help limit the spread of misinformation
- Before sharing something, you should
 - Determine if the source is a well-known media outlet
 - Check the date, often things are outdated and there is more current information available
 - Read the entire article or watch the entire video, don't blindly post/share
 - Determine the context of the information; are all facts presented?
 - Assess credibility of the author/publisher
 - Assess sources used for the creation of the media; are they reliable?
 - Check any links to see where they send you
- If you find false information, don't repost or share it. Once someone sees it, in any context, it is hard to correct their understanding of the information



Information spreads like a virus.

So does misinformation and disinformation. When it's exciting, it can spread even faster.

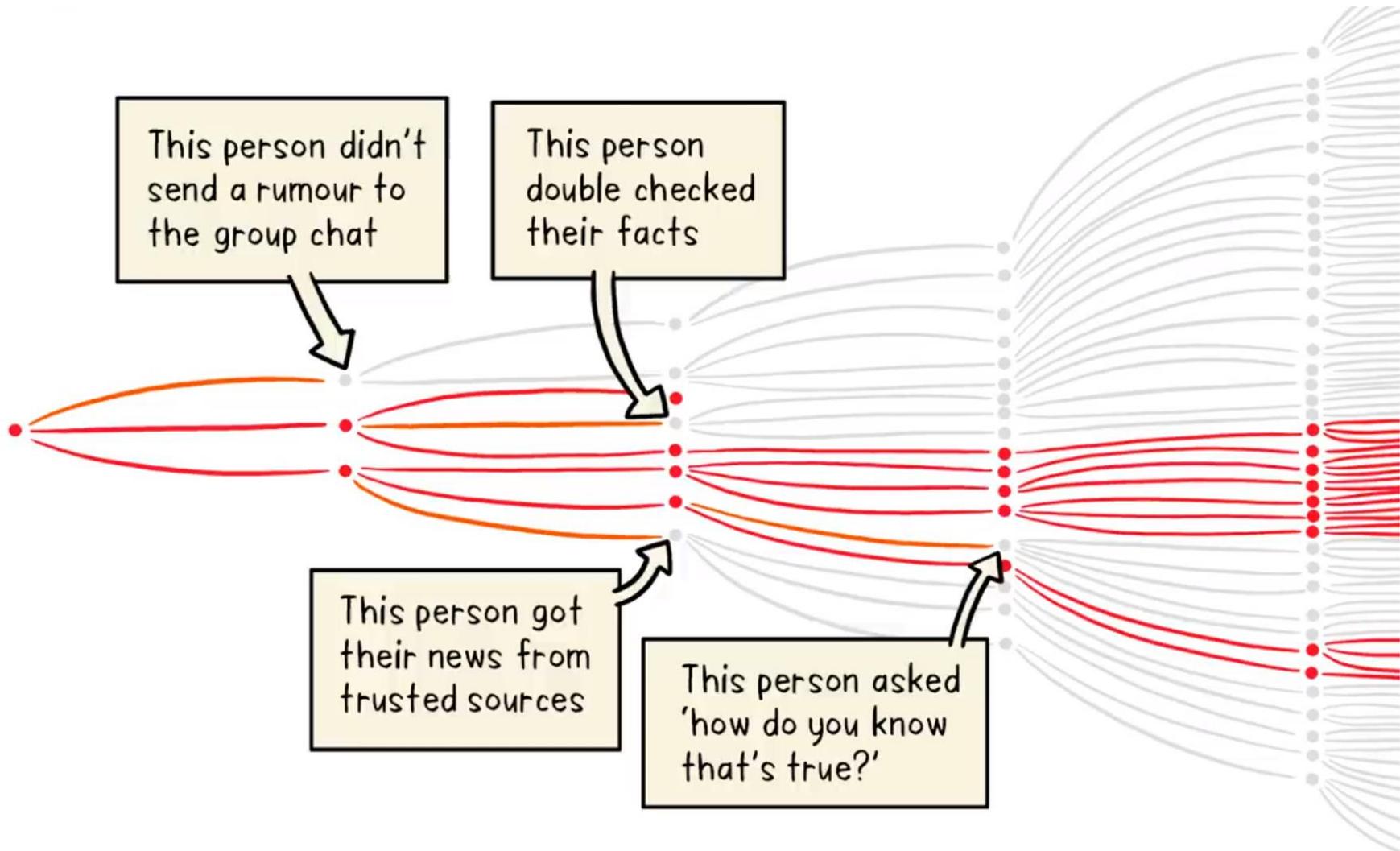


And that can be deadly.

So we need to critically assess information before we share it.

<https://www.facebook.com/mohseychellesofficial/videos/3430508033700507/>





<https://www.facebook.com/mohseychellesofficial/videos/3430508033700507/>





Firstline Resources:

<https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/projectfirstline/index.html>

<https://www.facebook.com/CDCProjectFirstline>

<https://www.facebook.com/NebraskaICAP>

<https://www.facebook.com/NebraskaICAP>

The power to stop infections. Together.

Every frontline healthcare worker deserves to understand infection control principles and protocols and feel they can confidently apply them to protect themselves, their facility, their family, and their community. CDC's new infection control training collaborative, Project Firstline, is designed to help every frontline healthcare worker gain that knowledge and confidence.



COVID Vaccine Update



**Infection Control Assessment
and Promotion Program**

Report cases of COVID-19 that occur 7 days or more after the second vaccine



A link may be emailed to you from the ICAP IP, Dr. Kamal-Ahmed, or find the link right on the ICAP Homepage <https://icap.nebraskamed.com/>



Reinfection & Vaccine Failure Investigation Form

Please complete the survey below.

Thank you!

1. Case State / Local ID	<input type="text"/>
2. Medical Record Number (MRN):	<input type="text"/>
3. Reporting Health Department Jurisdiction: <i>* must provide value</i>	<input type="text" value="v"/>
4. Name of Individual Entering Data: <i>* must provide value</i>	<input type="text"/>
Name of the LTCF <i>* must provide value</i>	<input type="text"/>
5. Date of Data Entry <i>* must provide value</i>	<input type="text"/>  Today M-D-Y
Section 2: Case Demographics	
Last Name <i>* must provide value</i>	<input type="text"/>
First Name <i>* must provide value</i>	<input type="text"/>



Visitation



**Infection Control Assessment
and Promotion Program**

COVID-19 Nursing Home Visitation

- Determining indoor visitation based on County Positivity Rates
 - Refer to County Positivity Rate (%)
 - Low (<5%): Visitation can happen according to the core COVID-19 Infection Prevention Policies
 - Medium (5-10%): Visitation can happen according to the core COVID-19 Infection Prevention Policies
 - High (>10%): Visitation should only occur for compassionate care situations according to the core COVID-19 Infection Prevention Policies
- Testing prior to visit is encouraged for visitors in counties with high community spread

Important Information from DHHS Related to Visitation and Vaccine Rate for Assisted Living

Leading Age sent out this communication on Friday, 1/15/2021. DHHS will be sending out an email pertaining to this to facilities directly as well.

Assisted living facilities with >90% **staff AND residents** vaccinated, will have the option to allow indoor visitation for vaccinated individuals two weeks after the 90% received the 2nd dose of vaccine in the series. This option for visitation will be available even for facilities in red counties (>10% community positivity). All other infection control measures must remain in place.

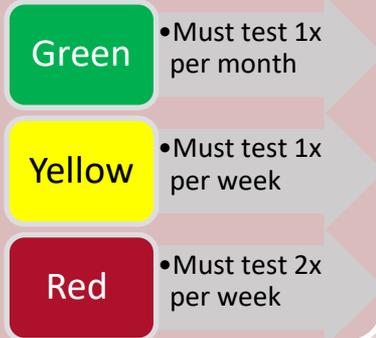
DHHS shared that they recognize the substantial need for assisted living facility residents to see their loved ones and hope this provides more opportunity for visitation and does so in the safest way possible, based on the best data available at this time. They also hope this provides incentive for vaccination, and might help boost immunity, further protecting a vulnerable population.

DHHS indicated that this option may be updated, as well as other recommendations, as we learn more about vaccine effectiveness in LTC settings.

Skilled Nursing Facilities are still required to comply with [QSO-20-39-NH](#) related to visitation, until CMS provides updated/new guidance.



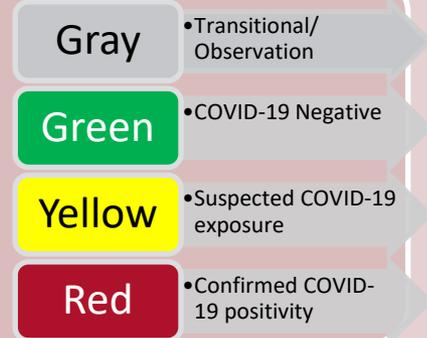
County Positivity



Risk Dial



Facility Status



County Positivity Rate is used to determine frequency of outbreak testing and county positivity colors can be found at: <https://data.cms.gov/stories/s/q5r5-giyu>

The risk dial combines community cases, testing capacity, positivity rate, contact tracing and hospital capacity into an overall risk assessment of the community.

Facility status is your outbreak status. This would be gray, green, yellow and red based on cases within your facility.

Medically Necessary Appointments during COVID-19



**Infection Control Assessment
and Promotion Program**

Medically Necessary Appointments

Residents do not need to be housed in the gray zone and can return to a regular room after a medically necessary appointment (such as dialysis) **IF**:

- Transportation to and from the office/clinic is controlled-the driver is professional-meaning training and compliant with PPE
- adheres to strict hand hygiene, environmental cleaning and there are no breaks in PPE
- the resident wears a mask (if clinically appropriate)

AND

There are no identified gaps in IC processes at the medical clinic/office.

It is acceptable to assume that this type of transportation and treatment is considered controlled and therefore the resident can remain in their regular room.

- **If the above cannot be followed or there are gaps in processes, then a gray zone would be warranted.**
- An identified known exposure would warrant yellow zone precautions.

ICAP guidance to consider (due to the increased risk of being in and out of the facility) would be:

- Increase monitoring (2-3 times per day) for signs and symptoms of COVID-19
- Testing the resident in the same manner as staff testing. (2 times a week)
- Testing would not apply in cases of COVID-19 recovered patients during the 90 period

CDC Update: Considerations for Interpretation of Antigen Tests in LTC Facilities

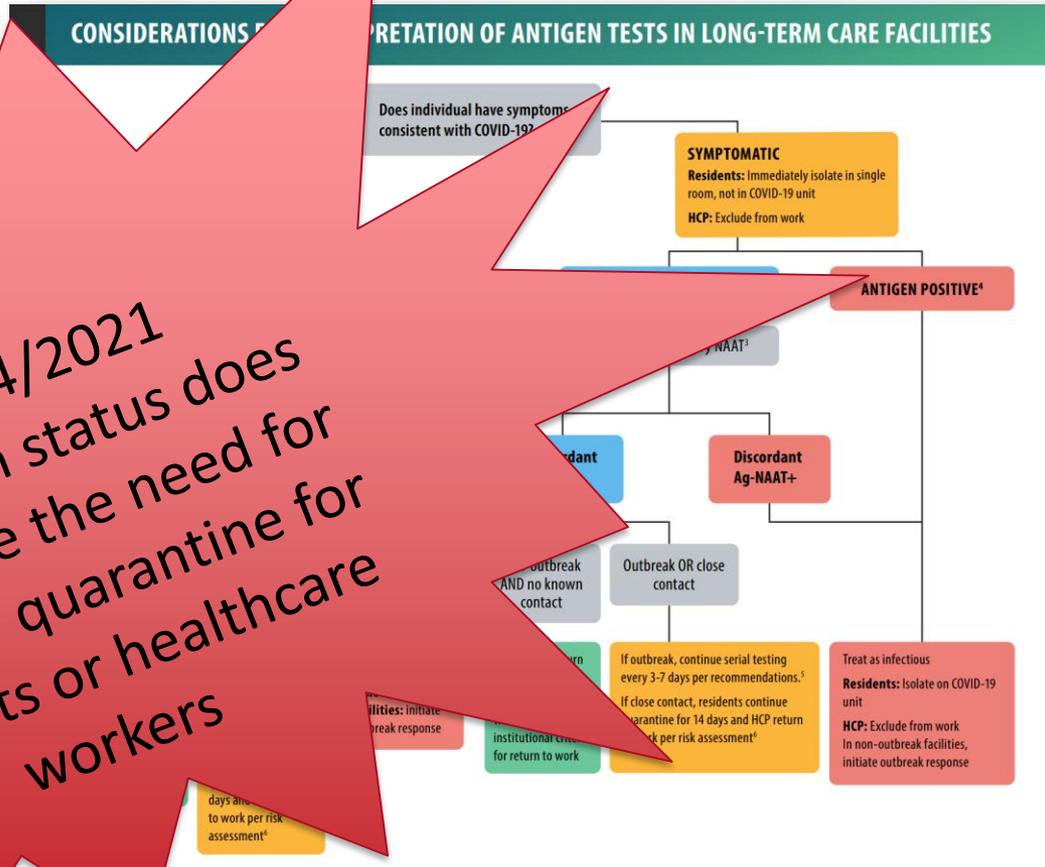


**Infection Control Assessment
and Promotion Program**

Antigen Testing Update

- CDC updated their testing algorithm January 15, 2021
- In general, valid all PCR results in asymptomatic
- Valid Antigen symptomatic

As of 2/4/2021
 Vaccination status does not change the need for testing or quarantine for residents or healthcare workers



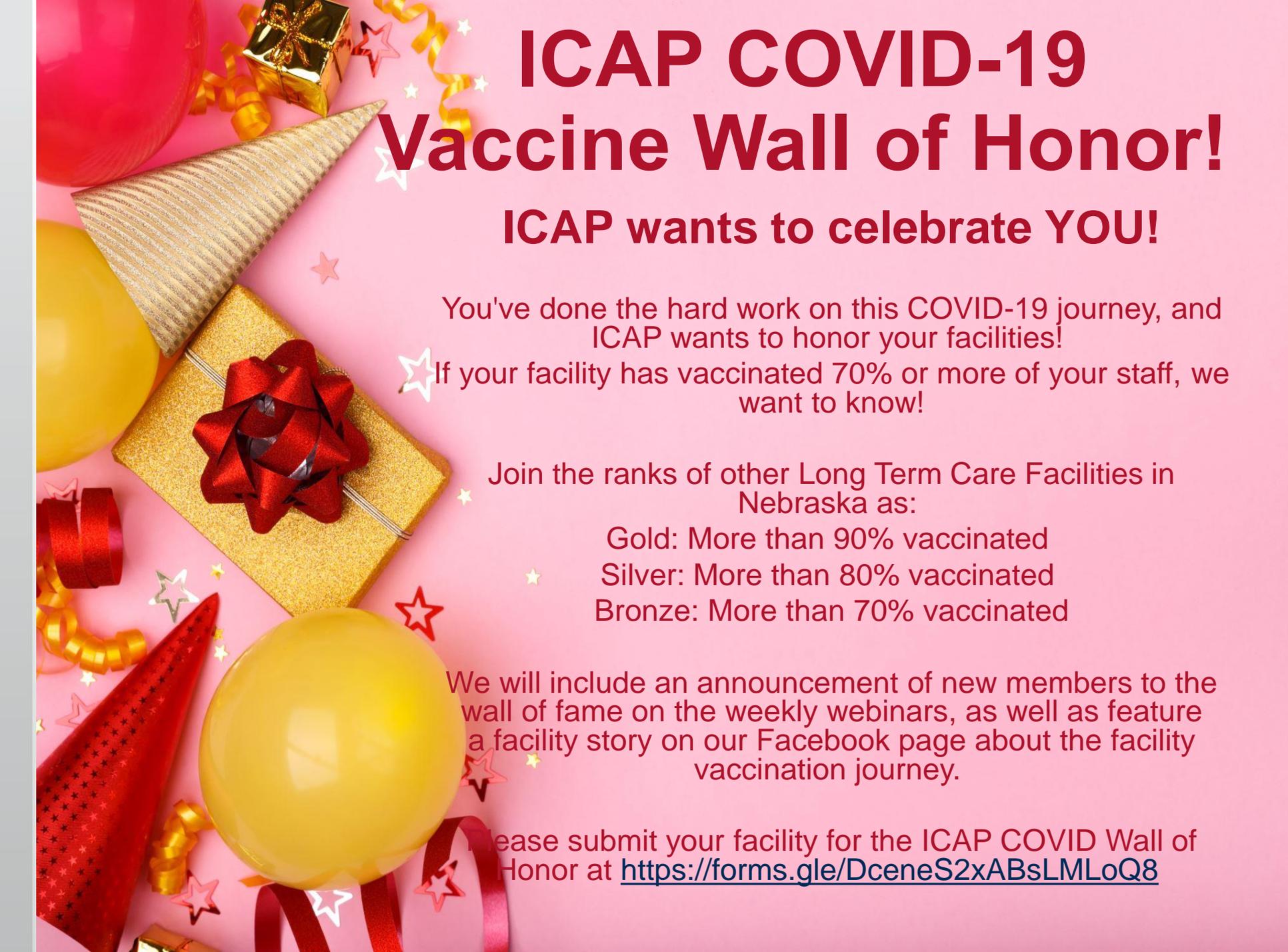
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/hcp/nursing-home-testing-algorithm-508.pdf>



COVID-19 Vaccine Wall of Honor



**Infection Control Assessment
and Promotion Program**



ICAP COVID-19 Vaccine Wall of Honor!

ICAP wants to celebrate YOU!

You've done the hard work on this COVID-19 journey, and ICAP wants to honor your facilities!

★ If your facility has vaccinated 70% or more of your staff, we want to know!

Join the ranks of other Long Term Care Facilities in Nebraska as:

★ Gold: More than 90% vaccinated

★ Silver: More than 80% vaccinated

Bronze: More than 70% vaccinated

We will include an announcement of new members to the wall of fame on the weekly webinars, as well as feature a facility story on our Facebook page about the facility vaccination journey.

Please submit your facility for the ICAP COVID Wall of Honor at <https://forms.gle/DceneS2xABsLMLoQ8>

A festive background featuring a pink surface decorated with yellow and red balloons, gold and red gift boxes with bows, gold and red streamers, and various star-shaped ornaments. The text is overlaid on the right side of this background.

ICAP COVID-19 Vaccine Wall of Honor!

Who should be counted as vaccine eligible staff in the nursing home?

As long as there is no medical exemption or contraindication, ICAP suggests including:

- Everyone on the facility payroll who works in the building
- All contract staff who are frequently in the building and have interactions with LTCF staff and/or residents (therapist, agency staff etc.)
- Essential care givers if the LTCF has an essential care giver program already in place.



Clarkson Community Care Center



COVID-19 Vaccine Wall of Honor
Bronze Medal Member by reaching
70% staff COVID-19 vaccination rate



Jefferson Community Health and Life- Gardenside LTC

COVID-19 Vaccine Wall of Honor Silver
Medal Member by reaching 80% staff
COVID-19 vaccination rate



JEFFERSON COMMUNITY

Health & Life



“Our staff has worked incredibly hard to keep our residents free from COVID-19. We are proud to say that we have had no residents with COVID-19 thus far. We have 97% of residents taking the vaccine and staff are 80.6%.”

Pawnee City Assisted Living



COVID-19 Vaccine Wall
of Honor Silver Medal
Member by reaching
80% staff COVID-19
vaccination rate



Updates and Announcements



**Infection Control Assessment
and Promotion Program**

COVID-19 Tele-ICAP Assessments

- ICAP is offering COVID-19 focused virtual ICAR assessments to outpatient and acute care facilities
- The assessment will assess the status of COVID-19 policies and procedures and offer a summary of recommendations from ICAP
- Home Health Agencies fall under the outpatient umbrella and ICAP has developed a HH focused survey to support our HH partners
- Contact NE ICAP at 402.552.2881 to be connected with the IP responsible for the facility

Webinar CE Process

1 Nursing Contact Hour and 1 NAB Contact Hour is offered for attending this LIVE webinar

1. A survey will open upon completion of the webinar, **you must complete the survey to get your CE credits.** Please note: Your web browser makes a difference. Google Chrome is the suggested browser.
2. Nursing Credit hours will include the entire month of verified CE on one certificate (Ex: You attended 2 webinars during the month of November, your certificate will reflect the 2 webinar dates and 2 credit hours earned)
3. Nursing Certificates will be emailed to you by the 15th of the following month
4. You must have a NAB account to claim credit with them
5. You must provide your NAB number for us to submit attendance to the NAB system

Direct any CE questions to Sarah Stream, MPH, CDA at
sstream@nebraskamed.com

Infection Prevention and Control: Office and On-Call Hours

Call 402-552-2881

Office Hours are Monday – Friday

8:00 AM - 10:00 AM Central Time

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Central Time

On-Call Hours are

**Monday – Friday 4:00 PM – 8:00 PM and
8:00 AM – 8:00 PM Weekends and Holidays**

Questions and Answer Session

Use the QA box in the webinar platform to type a question. Questions will be read aloud by the moderator.

Panelists:

- Dr. Salman Ashraf
 - Kate Tyner, RN, BSN, CIC
 - Margaret Drake, MT(ASCP),CIC
 - Sarah Stream, MPH, CDA
 - Jody Scebold, EdD, MSN, RN
 - Karen Amsberry, MSN, RN
 - Lacey Pavlovsky, RN, MSN, CIC
 - Dan German
-
- Moderated by Marissa Chaney
 - Supported by Margaret Deacy
 - Slide support from Lacey Pavlovsky, RN, MSN, CIC

The screenshot shows a webinar platform interface. On the left, there is a search bar with the text "COVID-19 LTCF Webinar Slides" and a dropdown menu with "COVID-19 LTCF Webinar Recordings". Below this is a list of recordings with links to access them, such as "Access the COVID-19 Webinar for LTCF - Recording 04.30.2020 here". A green arrow points to the recording dated 04.09.2020. On the right, there is a sidebar with several red navigation buttons: "COVID-19 RESOURCES - PPE", "COVID-19 RESOURCES - SCHOOLS & BEHAVIORAL HEALTH", "COVID-19 RESOURCES - EXPERT INFORMATION", "COVID-19 WEBINARS", "COVID-19 TOOLS FOR LTCF", and "STAFFING RESOURCES".

<https://icap.nebraskamed.com/resources/>

Don't forget to Like us on Facebook for important updates!



The screenshot shows the Facebook profile for Nebraska ICAP. The profile picture is a red outline of Nebraska with "ICAP" written inside. The name is "Nebraska ICAP" and the bio is "@NebraskaICAP · Educational Consultant". There is a blue "Learn More" button and a link to "icap.nebraskamed.com". The navigation bar at the bottom includes "Home", "About", "Videos", "Live", "More", "Liked", "Message", and search icons.

Getting 'Back to Normal' Is Going to Take **All of Our Tools**

If we use all the tools we have, we stand the best chance of getting our families, communities, schools, and workplaces "back to normal" sooner:

Get vaccinated.



Wear a mask.



Stay 6 feet from others,
and avoid crowds.



Wash
hands often.



www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/vaccines

12/09/20

CDC Resources:

Preparing for COVID-19 in
Nursing Homes:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronaviruses/2019-ncov/hcp/long-term-care.html>

Long-Term Care Facility Toolkit:
Preparing for COVID-19
Vaccination at Your Facility

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/toolkits/long-term-care/index.html>

