

Guidance and responses were provided based on information known on 3/4/2021 and may become out of date.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

## March 4, 2021

NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Mission.

DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



Infection Control Assessment  
and Promotion Program

# Presentation Information:

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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 Variant Update



**Infection Control Assessment  
and Promotion Program**

# Nebraska Identifies B-117 Variant of COVID-19

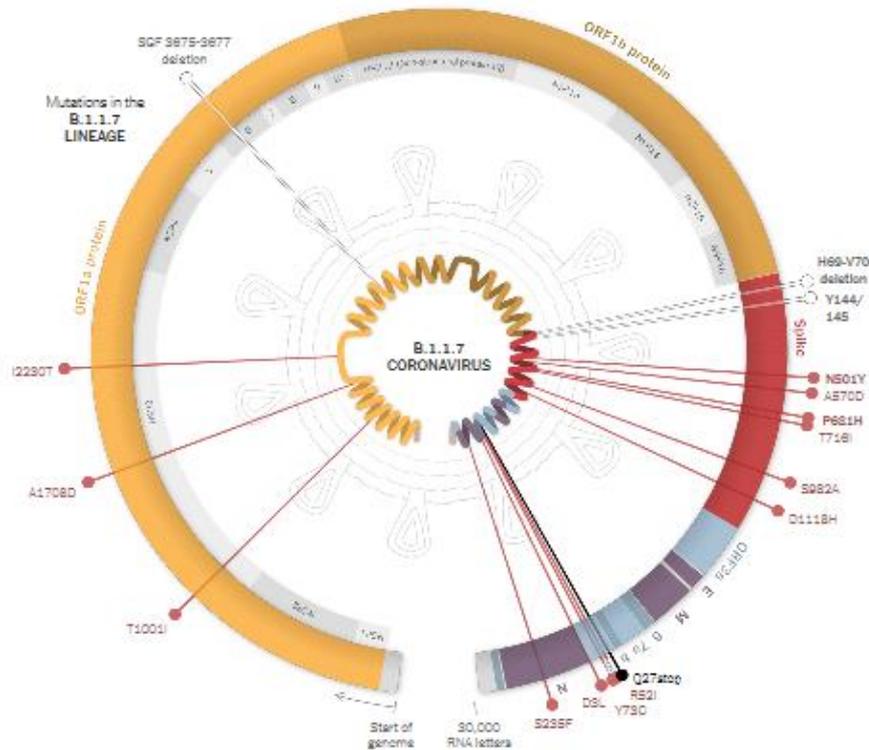
***Released 2/26/2021***

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and Nebraska Public Health Lab (NPHL) have confirmed the first known case of the U.K. variant of COVID-19, known as B.1.1.7 (B-117) in the state.

- The individual is a woman in her 20s and is a resident of Douglas County.
- This variant has been found in 45 other states and is more easily transmitted.
  - Both Pfizer and Moderna vaccines have shown effective against it.
  - The Johnson and Johnson vaccine which is expected to be approved soon has also been proven effective against B-117.
- Case investigation and contact tracing began within 24 hours of the positive laboratory test and is ongoing.



# The B.1.1.7 Lineage



## KEY MUTATIONS IN B.1.1.7

Mutations in the spike protein include:

- **N501Y**, which helps the virus latch on more tightly to human cells. But the mutation is not likely to help the virus evade current vaccines.
- **P681H**, which may help infected cells create new spike proteins more efficiently.
- The **H69-V70** and **Y144/145** deletions, which alter the shape of the spike and may help it evade some antibodies.

- This group of coronaviruses came to light in Britain
- Coronaviruses from the B.1.1.7 lineage are thought to be 30 to 50 percent more infectious than other variants in circulation today.
  - They are also likely to be more deadly, based on studies in Britain.
- After its discovery in December, it quickly emerged in other countries and surged at an exponential rate.
- It is doubling in the United States every ten days.
  - Preliminary evidence suggests that B.1.1.7 is about 35 percent more deadly than other variants.
  - Testing suggests that vaccines still work well against it.



# Nebraska Identifies B.1.429 Variant of COVID-19

***Released 2/27/2021***

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and Nebraska Public Health Lab (NPHL) have confirmed the first known cases of the California variant of COVID-19, known as B.1.429 in the state.

- 13 cases in 4 different health jurisdictions have been identified:
  - 9- Douglas
  - 2- Public Health Solutions
  - 1- Lancaster
  - 1- East Central

**\*\*Investigations are underway and ongoing in each jurisdiction.**

# Nebraska Identifies B.1.429 Variant of COVID-19

**Released 2/27/2021**

- Less is known about B.1.429 than other variants.
- It was first identified in California and was discovered more recently than other variant strains of COVID-19.
- Like other variants, it has been spreading throughout the United States and is likely more contagious.
- Testing platforms like Test Nebraska and others will still produce a “positive” result for the B.1.429 variant (and other variants). It is expected that vaccinations will remain effective.

**Avoid the Three Cs**   
Be aware of different levels of risk in different settings.

There are certain places where COVID-19 spreads more easily:

- 1 Crowded places**  
with many people nearby
- 2 Close-contact settings**  
Especially where people have close-range conversations
- 3 Confined and enclosed spaces**  
with poor ventilation

The risk is higher in places where these factors overlap.  
Even as restrictions are lifted, consider where you are going and #StaySafe by avoiding the Three Cs.

**WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?**

-  Avoid crowded places and limit time in enclosed spaces
-  Maintain at least 1m distance from others
-  When possible, open windows and doors for ventilation
-  Keep hands clean and cover coughs and sneezes
-  Wear a mask if requested or if physical distancing is not possible

If you are unwell, stay home unless to seek urgent medical care.

# Vaccine Update



**Infection Control Assessment  
and Promotion Program**

# Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) Vaccine update

- The Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) vaccine is a viral vector vaccine.
- Viral vector vaccines use a different virus as a vector instead, which delivers important instructions (in the form of a gene) to our cells.
- For COVID-19 vaccines, a modified virus delivers a gene that instructs our cells to make a SARS-CoV-2 antigen called the spike protein.
  - This antigen triggers production of antibodies and a resulting immune response.
  - The virus used in a viral vector vaccine poses no threat of causing illness in humans because it has been modified or, in some cases, because the type of virus used as the vector cannot cause disease in humans.



# Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) Vaccine update

## Vaccine Schedule and Use

- Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine is authorized and recommended for persons 18 years of age and older.
- All people for whom vaccination is indicated should receive 1 dose.
- Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine is a multidose vial that does not require reconstitution.
- Each multidose vial of Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine contains **five** 0.5 mL doses.

## Vaccine Storage and Handling

- Store Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine in the refrigerator between 2°C and 8°C (36°F and 46°F) for up to the expiration or beyond use date (BUD).
- After the vial is first punctured, the vaccine vial may be held:
- For up to 2 hours at room temperature; discard any vaccine not used within 2 hours  
—OR—
- For up to 6 hours refrigerated between 2°C and 8°C; discard any vaccine not used within
- You should not add these time limits together (i.e., you may not hold the vaccine at room temperature for 2 hours and **then** hold refrigerated for another 6 hours).<sup>6</sup> hours.



# Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) Vaccine update

EUA: <https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/janssen-covid-19-vaccine>

Factsheet for Healthcare Providers: <https://www.fda.gov/media/146304/download>

Recipient and Caregiver EUA factsheet: <https://www.janssenlabels.com/emergency-use-authorization/Janssen+COVID-19+Vaccine-Recipient-fact-sheet.pdf>

## Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine (Johnson & Johnson)



**Dosing information:**

Multidose vial: 5 doses per vial

Dosage: 0.5mL

**Age Indications:**

18 years of age and older

**Schedule:**

Single dose

**Administration:**

Intramuscular (IM) injection in the deltoid muscle

# Vaccine Comparison

## Significance:

All three vaccines more than meet the 50 percent effectiveness threshold required by the FDA.

In addition, the data from phase 3 clinical trials for all three vaccines show that all of them are **100 percent effective in preventing hospitalization and death from COVID-19.**

## Pfizer-BioNTech

- Vaccine was shown to be 95 percent overall effective in preventing symptomatic COVID-19 after two doses in phase 3 clinical trials.
- Vaccine was shown to be 94.7 percent effective in people age 65 and older in its clinical trials after the second dose.

## Moderna

- Vaccine was shown to be 94.1 percent overall effective in preventing symptomatic COVID-19 in its phase 3 clinical trials after the second dose.
- Vaccine was shown to be 86.4 percent effective in people age 65 and over after two doses.

## Johnson & Johnson

- Vaccine was shown to be 66.1 percent overall effective in preventing COVID-19 symptoms after one dose in its phase 3 multi-country clinical trials and 72 percent effective among participants in the U.S. trials.
- Vaccine was shown to be 68.6 percent effective in people age 65 and over after one dose.

# Medically Necessary Appointments

**These principles can be applied to COVID-19 vaccine clinics being held outside LTCF:**

Residents do not need to be housed in the gray zone and can return to a regular room after a medically necessary appointment **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

# Review of CDC Quarantine and Travel Guidance



**Infection Control Assessment  
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# CDC Post-vaccination guidance (Updated 2/10/2021)

## *General Public Recommendations:*

**Vaccinated persons with an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 are not required to quarantine if they meet all the following criteria:**

- Are fully vaccinated (i.e.,  $\geq 2$  weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or  $\geq 2$  weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine)
- **Are within 3 months following receipt of the last dose in the series**
- Have remained asymptomatic since the current COVID-19 exposure

**\*\*Persons who do not meet all 3 of the above criteria should continue to follow current [quarantine guidance](#) after exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.**



# CDC Post-vaccination guidance (Updated 2/10/2021)

## ***Vaccinated healthcare personnel, patients, and residents in healthcare settings***

These criteria *could* also be applied when considering work restrictions for fully vaccinated healthcare personnel with [higher-risk exposures](#), **as a strategy to alleviate staffing shortages**.

- Of note, exposed healthcare personnel would not be required to quarantine outside of work.

### **EXCEPTION!**

As an exception to the above guidance no longer requiring quarantine for fully vaccinated persons, **vaccinated inpatients and residents in healthcare settings should continue to quarantine following an exposure** to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19

- This exception is due to:
  - The unknown vaccine effectiveness in this population
  - The higher risk of severe disease and death
  - Challenges with social distancing in healthcare settings



# Nebraska DHHS and CDC's Updated Travel Guidelines

## Nebraska DHHS Guidance:

### Out of State Travel

Out-of-state travelers and others traveling within Nebraska (e.g., commuters) should practice strict social distancing and self-monitor for symptoms consistent with COVID-19. Individuals that develop symptoms should immediately self-isolate.

### International Travel

- International travelers will need to get tested (PCR or Antigen test) no more than 3 days before they travel by air into the United States (US) and show a negative result to the airline before they board the flight or be prepared to show documentation of recovery (proof of a recent positive viral test and a letter from a healthcare provider or a public health official stating that they were cleared to travel).
- **Returning international travelers will need to be tested 3-5 days after travel AND stay home and self-quarantine for 7 days after travel.**
  - **If the test is positive, individuals need to isolate themselves to protect others from getting infected**
  - **If an individual is not tested after returning from international travel, they need to stay home and self-quarantine for 10 days after travel into the US.**
- International travelers need to avoid being around people who are at increased risk for severe illness for 14 days, whether they are tested or not. However, several countries are seeing increasing cases of COVID-19 and we continue to recommend that travelers practice strict social distancing and self-monitor for symptoms. If symptoms develop, individuals should isolate immediately.
- CDC's travel guidance can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/testing-international-air-travelers.html>



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<http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/COVID-19-Traveler-Recommendations.aspx#:~:text=When%20to%20practice%20strict%20social,symptoms%20should%20immediately%20self%20isolate>



# Hot Topic: Visitation



**Infection Control Assessment  
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# Outdoor Visitation

- While taking a person-centered approach and adhering to the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention, outdoor visitation is preferred and can also be conducted in a manner that reduces the risk of transmission.
- Outdoor visits pose a lower risk of transmission due to increased space and airflow.
  - All visits should be held outdoors whenever practicable.
  - Aside from weather considerations (e.g., inclement weather, excessively hot or cold temperatures, poor air quality), an individual resident's health status (e.g., medical condition(s), COVID-19 status), or a facility's outbreak status, outdoor visitation should be facilitated routinely.
- Facilities should create accessible and safe outdoor spaces for visitation, such as in courtyards, patios, or parking lots, including the use of tents, if available.
- When conducting outdoor visitation, facilities should have a process to limit the number and size of visits occurring simultaneously to support safe infection prevention actions (e.g., maintaining social distancing).
- We also recommend reasonable limits on the number of individuals visiting with any one resident at the same time.

# Visitation- Available Resources

Follow these references:

- **CMS County Positivity Data:** <https://data.cms.gov/stories/s/q5r5-gjyu>
- **CDC Quarantine Guidelines:** <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/clinical-considerations.html#phrecs>
- **DHHS Essential Caregiver Guidance for Long-Term Care Facilities:** <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Documents/COVID-19-Long-Term-Care-Essential-Caregiver-Guidance.pdf>
- **LONG-TERM CARE COVID-19 PHASING GUIDANCE**  
<https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Documents/LTCCOVID19PhasingGuidance.pdf>

## Nursing Home Facilities

- Nursing Home Visitation - COVID-19 ([QSO-20-39-NH](#))
- Preparing for COVID-19 in Nursing Homes  
[https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/long-term-care.html?CDC\\_AA\\_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fhealthcare-facilities%2Fprevent-spread-in-long-term-care-facilities.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/long-term-care.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fhealthcare-facilities%2Fprevent-spread-in-long-term-care-facilities.html)

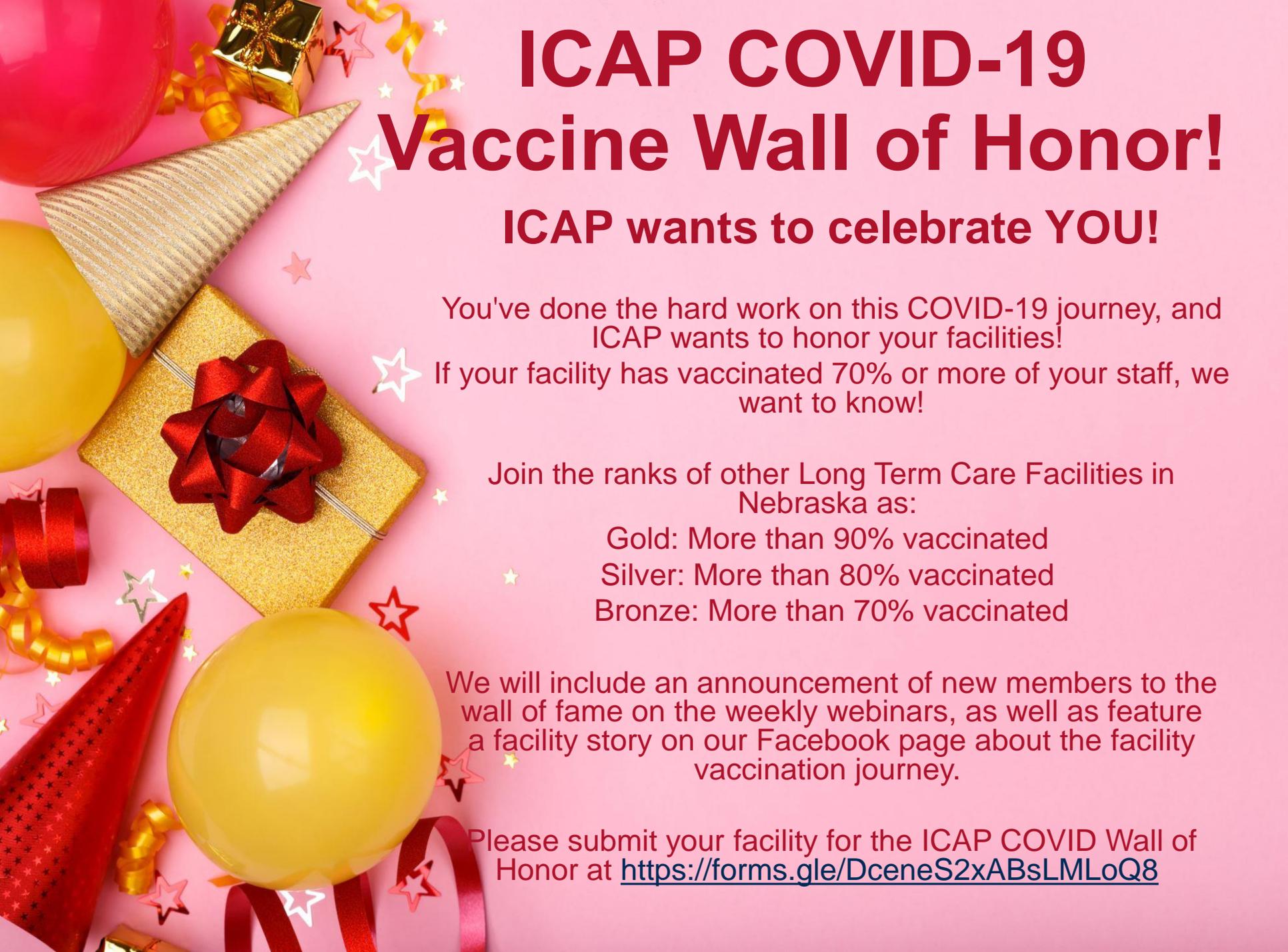
## Assisted Living Facilities

- Considerations for Preventing Spread of COVID-19 in Assisted Living Facilities:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/assisted-living.html>

# COVID-19 Vaccine Wall of Honor



**Infection Control Assessment  
and Promotion Program**

The background is a light pink color decorated with various festive items. On the left side, there are several yellow balloons, a red balloon at the top left, and a gold gift box with a red ribbon. There are also gold and red streamers, and several gold and red stars scattered throughout. A gold gift box with a red ribbon is prominently displayed in the center-left. A gold gift box with a red ribbon is also visible at the bottom left. A gold gift box with a red ribbon is also visible at the bottom left. A gold gift box with a red ribbon is also visible at the bottom left.

# 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>

# COVID-19 Vaccine Wall of Honor Bronze Medal Members

Bronze Medal  
Member by  
reaching 70%  
staff COVID-  
19 vaccination  
rate

❖ Mitchell Care Center, Mitchell, NE



# COVID-19 Vaccine Wall of Honor

## Gold Medal Members

Gold Medal  
Member by  
reaching 90%  
staff COVID-  
19 vaccination  
rate

❖ The Village at Regional  
West, Scottsbluff, NE



# 31 LTC Facilities for the ICAP COVID-19 Vaccine Wall of Honor through 3/4/2021

## Gold- Level Members

- Azria Gretna
- Good Sam Beatrice
- Greeley Care Home and AL
- Havelock Manor
- Hillcrest Mable Rose
- Hillcrest Millard
- Hillcrest Silver Ridge
- Rosewood Court Assisted Living- Henderson Healthcare
- Tabitha in Crete
- The Village at Regional West
- Valley View
- Wakefield Care Centers

## Silver- Level Members

- Arbor Care Hartington
- Arbor Care Centers Valhaven
- Falls City Care Center
- Hillcrest Grand Lodge
- Hillcrest Shadow Lake
- Jefferson Community Health and Life - Gardenside
- Pawnee City AL
- The Evergreen AL

## Bronze-Level Members

- Ambassador health Omaha
- Christian Homes
- Clarkson Comm Care Center
- Heritage Care Center Fairbury
- Hillcrest Firethorn
- Legacy Square LTC Facility- Henderson Healthcare
- Mid-Ne Lutheran home
- Mitchell Care Center
- New Cassel Retirement
- Prairie Breeze AL
- Well-Life Papillion

# Updates and Announcements



**Infection Control Assessment  
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# COVID-19 Tele-ICAP Reviews

- ICAP is offering COVID-19 focused virtual ICAR reviews to LTC, outpatient and acute care facilities
- The review 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 review 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 Marissa Chaney at  
[machaney@nebraskamed.com](mailto:machaney@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, FADAA
  - 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. At the top, there are two search boxes: one with a plus sign containing 'COVID-19 LTCF Webinar Slides' and another with a minus sign containing 'COVID-19 LTCF Webinar Recordings'. Below these is a list of recording links, each starting with 'Access the COVID-19 Webinar for LTCF - Recording [date] here'. A green arrow points to the recording dated 04.02.2020. On the right side, there is a vertical 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 image shows a Facebook profile card for 'Nebraska ICAP'. The profile picture is a red outline of Nebraska with 'ICAP' written inside. The name 'Nebraska ICAP' is displayed, along with the handle '@NebraskaICAP' and the role 'Educational Consultant'. There is a blue 'Learn More' button and a link to 'icap.nebraskamed.com'. At the bottom, there are navigation tabs for 'Home', 'About', 'Videos', 'Live', and 'More', along with icons for 'Liked', 'Message', and search.