

COVID-19 Community Transmission & Nursing Home Screening Strategies

(Recorded November 19, 2020)

AHRQ ECHO National Nursing Home COVID-19 Action Network



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Insert Session 7 Agenda

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COVID-19 Community Transmission & Nursing Home Screening Strategies

(Developed November 19, 2020)

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IHI program developed by



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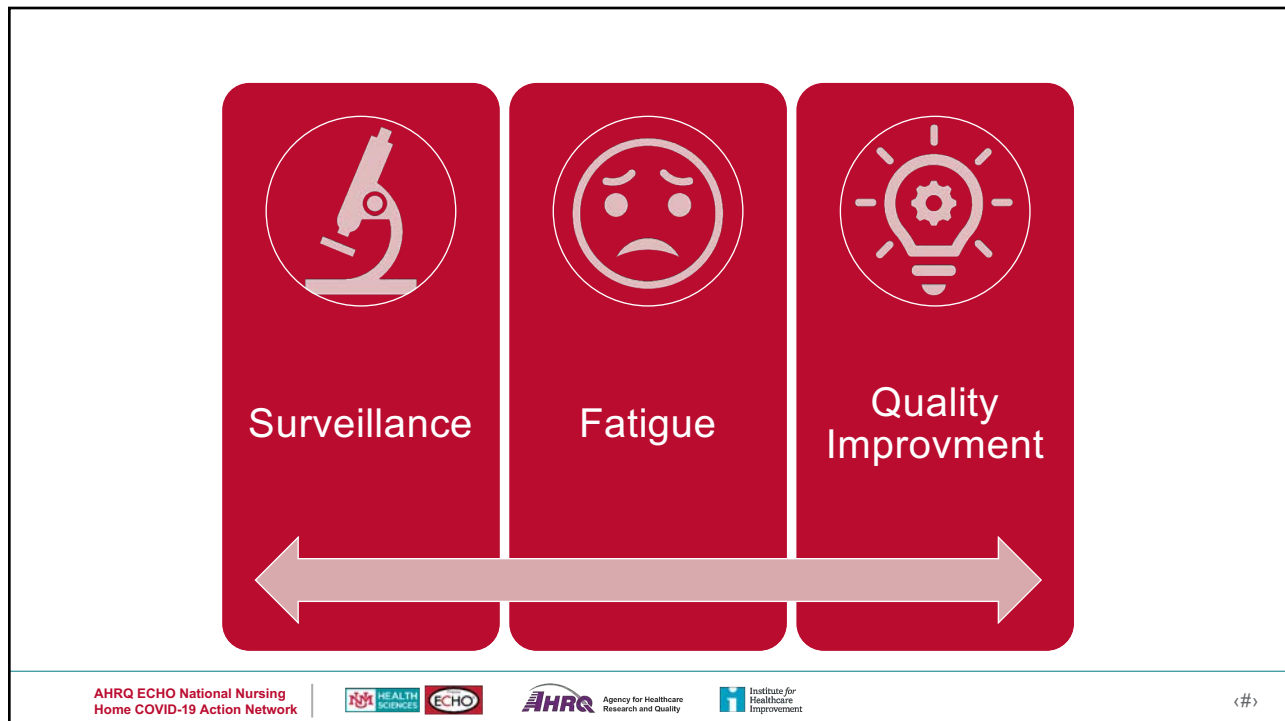
Abby Parish, DNP,
GNP-BC, AGPCNP-
BC, FNAP

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Learning Objectives

- Develop a method to disseminate up-to-date information on COVID-19 community incidence to staff members.
- Define screening practices within the nursing home.
 - Symptom – based versus Testing
- Identify challenges and solutions to COVID-19 fatigue in staff members.

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A Balancing Act

- CMS guidelines
- CDC guidelines
- State guidelines
- Innovative strategies
- Stewardship of resources



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Toolkit on State Actions to Mitigate COVID-19 Prevalence in Nursing Homes

November 2020 Version 1.1
Including recent information and guidance on vaccinations to prevent infection with influenza virus, pneumococcus, and SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19



CMS Toolkit

- November 5, 2020
- State level guidance for COVID-19 management & response
 - Screening guidance
 - Visitation recommendations & guidelines
- Check CMS website often for updates

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CMS Podcasts twice monthly

COVID-19 VACCINE reimbursement

\$16 for 1st vaccination

\$26 for 2nd vaccination

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Community Outbreaks & The Nursing Home



<https://unsplash.com/photos/9lRgAVxBr-I>

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Insert Video clip (YouTube) start 3:04 and end 5:03)

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Lack of consistent mask use and social distancing at a wedding reception in rural Maine led to multiple COVID-19 outbreaks and deaths



Slow the spread of COVID-19

- ✓ avoid large gatherings
- ✓ stay home when sick
- ✓ wear masks
- ✓ stay 6 feet from others

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Community Transmission- CDC Definitions

- **No-to-minimal community transmission:**
 - isolated cases or limited community transmission;
 - no evidence of exposure in large communal setting.
- **Minimal-to-moderate community transmission:**
 - Sustained transmission with high likelihood or confirmed exposure within communal settings.
- **Substantial community transmission:**
 - Large-scale community transmission, including in communal settings (e.g., schools, workplaces).

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COVID-19 Screening In The Nursing Home

Testing-Based Screening

- Viral (swab)
 - Rapid, point-of-care
 - Combination (FLU + COVID-19)
- Limitations
 - Labor-intensive
 - Costly

Symptom-Based Screening

- Self-report
 - COVID-19 symptoms
 - Temperature check
- Limitations
 - Assumes full disclosure
 - Asymptomatic carriers

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How do you assure staff report symptoms or exposure ?

- In text box, list your strategy to strengthen staff self – reporting of symptoms or exposure

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Test-Based Screening

- Proactive vs. reactive use
- Testing is better than symptom-based screening alone
- Early infection awareness prevents outbreaks
 - makes infection prevention a priority
 - Facilities strengthen infection prevention & control.

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Testing-Based Screening

- CMS Guidance (August 26, 2020)
 - County positivity rate is < 5%: Monthly testing
 - County positivity rate is 5-10%: Weekly testing
 - County positivity rate >10%: Twice weekly testing

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Nursing Home Screening- 3 Cases



Washington



Georgia



France

Insert 10:09 to 13:59 from Session 7 you tube video

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Symptom-Based Screening

- Despite limitations, its use is recommended
- Wide variance of implementation & management

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Symptom based screening

- What about a sniff test as a POC testing strategy ?

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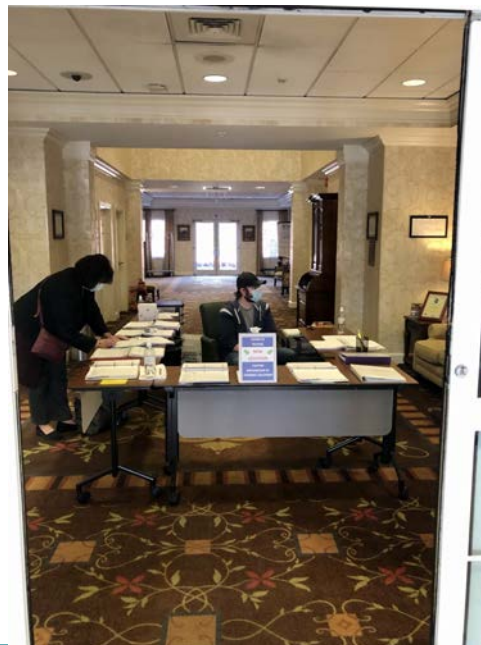
Different strategies for screening visitors and staff

3 EXAMPLES

- A. Check point
- B. Self – service
- C. Lock - down

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Screening- Facility A



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Do you see ways to improve the check point process ?



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Screening- Facility B



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Screening- Facility C



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- All individuals coming in facility



Triage with DON

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Screening Staff Members

- Who is checking symptom logs?
- Staff member compliance with logs
- Improving disclosure of symptoms
 - Contingency work plans?
 - Creating a culture of trust

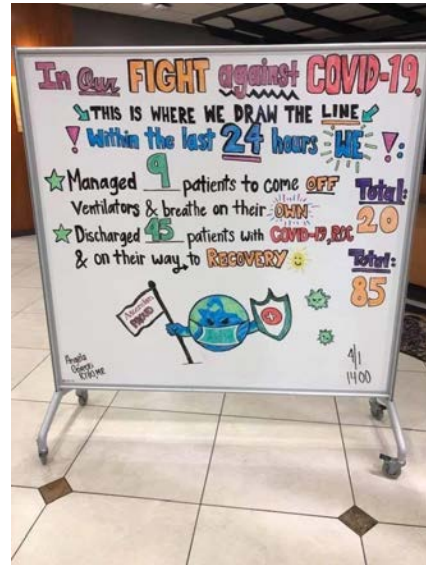


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Keeping Staff & Families Updated

- Engage MD & APRN leadership
- Weekly conference calls
- Social media



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Addressing COVID-19 Caution Fatigue

- Break the cycle
 - Boost staff morale
 - Recognition
 - Holiday decorations & music
 - Food
 - Highlight residents/staff who have recovered
 - Leadership lead by example



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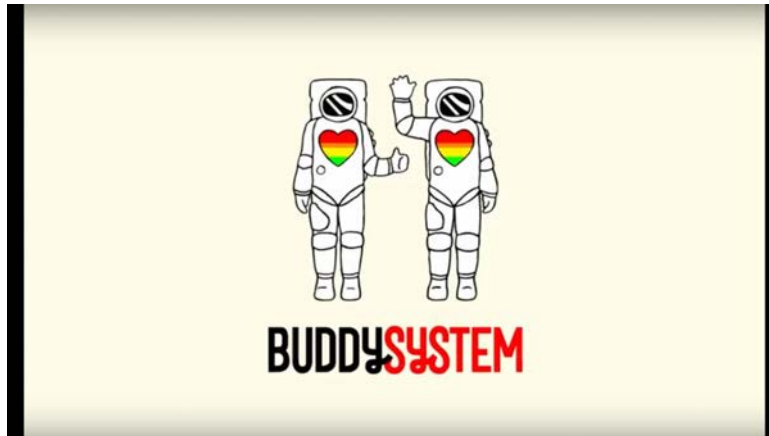
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List your methods for positive reinforcement of staff



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Case Report

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