Vaccinations in Nursing Homes

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Nursing Homes 101

- High density of residents
- High numbers of staff and visitors accessing the building
- Frequent staff movement between multiple resident rooms
- High-traffic common areas
  - Dining rooms
  - Living rooms
  - Therapy gym
  - Activities areas

Total number of COVID-19 cases = 29

- NH 1: 16 symptomatic cases, 10 asymptomatic cases found through facility-wide testing
- NH 2: 3 symptomatic cases found after facility-wide testing
- NH 3: 10 asymptomatic cases

Vaccination Challenges in Nursing Homes

- Vaccine fatigue
- Inaccurate health information
- Vaccine hesitancy
- Lack of updated infection control policies
- Difficulty with process implementation
- Staff shortage and turnover
- Limited vaccine availability
- Poor coordination with other entities
Proportion of vaccinated nursing home residents as of December 2023

- Updated COVID-19: 33%
- Influenza: 72%
- Respiratory syncytial virus: 10%

Current COVID-19 hospitalizations & deaths

- Since October 2023:
  - People 75+: 46% of hospitalizations for COVID
  - People 65+: 67% of hospitalizations for COVID

- From October 2022 - November 2023:
  - 25% of adults 75+ who were hospitalized for COVID were long-term nursing home residents
  - 28% of adults 65+ who died of COVID in hospital were long-term nursing home residents

- New recommendation: Additional updated COVID-19 vaccine dose for adults 65+

Source: CDC ACIP meeting presentations, Feb. 27, 2024
How can we improve vaccination in nursing homes?

- Provide staff and resident education
- Improve nursing home staffing
- Update and disseminate infection control policies
- Provide guidance and assistance on process implementation
- Increase vaccine availability
- Facilitate partnership and coordination with healthcare systems, local and state health departments, and pharmacies
Thank you