

Information for NHSN users



This email is intended for Facility and Group users of the Long-term Care Facility Component (LTCF) of NHSN.

Below is important information for the Long-term Care Facility COVID-19 Module regarding modifications for the NHSN release that will occur Saturday, September 18th, 2021. Resources on the [NHSN LTCF COVID-19 Module website](#) will be updated, where indicated, with revised forms, instructions, FAQs and CSV templates. Information regarding training opportunities are also available on the [NHSN LTCF COVID-19 Module Website](#).

Point of Care (POC) Test Reporting Tool:

The following enhancements will be made.

Additional POC devices will be added to the NHSN system. Although some are titled “home use” they also have been provided POC Emergency Use Authorization by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. If you are using any of these devices, please check the model name and ensure you choose the right device from the drop down menu. In an upcoming NHSN release, we will be introducing options to make it easier to locate your device among the growing list of POC devices in the application. More information will be provided.

- CareStart EX COVID-19 IgM_Access Bio, Inc.
- CareStart EX COVID-19 IgG_Access Bio, Inc.
- CovAB SARS-CoV-2 ABTest_Diabetomics, Inc.
- ADEXUSDx COVID-19 Test_NOWDiagnostics, Inc.
- SGTI COVID-19 IgG_Sugentech, Inc.
- Rapid COVID-19 IgG_Megna Health, Inc.
- Rapid COVID-19 IgM_Megna Health, Inc.
- IntelliSwab COVID-19 Rapid Test RX_OraSure Technologies, Inc.
- IntelliSwab COVID-19 Rapid Test- _OraSure Technologies, Inc.

Additional Options for the Race and Ethnicity Fields

The following two options will be added for responses to the Race and Ethnicity data fields:

- Declined to Respond
- Unknown

Note: Collecting race and ethnicity is important for understanding trends in the COVID-19 pandemic and ensuring the wellbeing of racial and ethnic minority groups. Therefore, only use these two field if all attempts to retrieve race or ethnicity data have been unsuccessful.

COVID-19 Pathway Data Reporting:

Please refer to the below data reporting pathways to learn about enhancements that will be made within each pathway.

Resident Impact and Facility Capacity Pathway:

- Enhancements will be made to the Vaccination Status section. This section will be categorized by Initial Series and Additional or Booster Dose. The Additional or Booster Dose section is a new addition to this pathway
- Within the Initial Series section, the data element of Unspecified will be revised and there will be two reporting options for the unspecified option. The two categories will be “Unspecified Partial” and “Unspecified Complete”. These categories will be used to distinguish between residents with a newly positive SARS-CoV-2 viral test result who have received one or two doses of COVID-19 vaccine with an unspecified manufacturer.
- Additional or Booster Dose will be added as a new data field. This section will be used to capture residents with a newly positive SARS-CoV-2 viral test result who have also received an additional or booster dose of COVID-19 vaccine 14 days or more before the specimen collection date.
- The Guidance document that explains the process for reporting data to the updated vaccination status section will be located on the [NHSN LTCF COVID-19 Module Webpage](#) under the heading Facility Resources. The document is titled Guidance to Resident Impact and Facility Capacity Pathway Vaccination Status Section.

We will also host a training presentation regarding the updated vaccination status section. Details can be found below.

Please Join us for a Review of LTCF COVID-19 Module: Resident Impact and Facility Capacity Pathway Updates

Topic: LTCF COVID-19 Module: Resident Impact and Facility Capacity Pathway Updates

Date: Monday, Sep 20, 2021

Time: 1:00 – 2:00 PM ET

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://cdc.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_LVIK4Kt-Q5O-T2v2J6QydQ

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Staff and Personnel Impact Pathway:

No enhancements

Supplies and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Pathway:

No enhancements

Therapeutics Pathway:

No enhancements

State Veterans Homes COVID-19 Event Reporting Tool

No enhancements

Weekly NHSN COVID-19 Vaccination Data Modules

Below are important updates to the COVID-19 Vaccination Modules in September 2021.

Data on the current healthcare personnel (HCP) categories for question #1 will no longer be collected. The new categories are listed below, and facilities will be required to report data for each category.

- Employees: Staff on facility payroll
- Licensed independent practitioners: Contracted physicians, advanced practice nurses, and physician assistants
- Adult students/trainees and volunteers: Non-employee students/trainees and volunteers aged 18 or older
- Other contract personnel: Contracted staff who do not fall into any of the other denominator categories

Question #3.2 (offered but declined COVID-19 vaccine) and question #3.3 (unknown COVID-19 vaccination status) will now be required.

Facilities will need to create a monthly reporting plan before entering data into NHSN.

A webinar reviewing these changes for long-term care facilities will be held on

September 23, 2021, from 2-3 PM ET. Facilities can use this link to register:

https://cdc.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_wQWphrcdRvCy4ATVbJ6BpQ

If you are not able to attend this session, a replay broadcast will be held on September 29, 2021. Registration links for the replay are coming soon.

Long-term care facilities can currently access the NHSN COVID-19 Vaccination Modules with Level 1 SAMS access. However, as previously shared, Level 1 access is an interim measure with limited access to the NHSN application. We continue to encourage facilities to obtain Level 3 access once Level 1 registration is completed. The difference between Level 3 and Level 1 is data security safeguards, as Level 3

provides a more secure data upload. Having access to Level 3 also enables access to the full functionality of NHSN, including the ability to report resident-level data.

Monthly reporting plans will be required to enter weekly HCP & resident COVID-19 Vaccination data beginning October 1, 2021. Level 3 access will be required to complete these monthly reporting plans in the Long-Term Care Facility Component. This means facilities must have a NHSN user with Level 3 access to submit or update weekly COVID-19 vaccination data for reporting weeks starting with week ending 10/3/2021.

If your facility does not have a Level 3 user, please follow the instructions here to increase your access to Level 3: [Increasing LTCF SAMS Level Access to NHSN | NHSN | CDC](#). Please begin this process as soon as possible to ensure Level 3 access is secured by October 2021. NHSN strongly encourages all facilities to have at least 2 registered users with Level 3 access. Please e-mail NHSN@CDC.GOV with "SAMS LEVEL 3 ACCESS" in the subject line for any questions related to this process.

For questions about any of these updates, please send an e-mail to the NHSN Helpdesk at NHSN@cdc.gov with the subject line identifying the topic, 'COVID-19 vaccination' in the subject line of the message

Thank you for your partnership,
The NHSN LTCF Team

Please do not reply to this email. Responses to this email will not be received by the NHSN Team. To contact NHSN, please send a new email to: nhsn@cdc.gov



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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