



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
of HEALTH SERVICES

CDC LTCF Infection Control Guidance Updates

Ashlie Dowdell
Director, Healthcare-Associated
Infections (HAI) Prevention
Program

DQA SNF Forum

April 1, 2021

Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations to Prevent SARS-CoV-2 Spread in Nursing Homes

Nursing Homes & Long-Term Care Facilities

Updates as of March 29, 2021

- Two prior guidance documents, “Responding to COVID-19 in Nursing Homes” and “Performing Facility-wide SARS-CoV-2 Testing in Nursing Homes” were merged with this guidance.
- The criteria for health department notification was updated to be consistent with Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologist (CSTE) guidance for reporting.
- Information on the importance of vaccinating residents and healthcare personnel (HCP) was added along with links to vaccination resources.
- Visitation and physical distancing measures were updated.
- Added proper use and handling of personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Added universal PPE use to align with the [interim infection prevention and control guidance for HCP](#).
- Added considerations for situations when it might be appropriate to keep the room door open for a resident with suspected or confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection.
- A description was included about when it may be appropriate for a resident with a suspected SARS-CoV-2 infection to “shelter-in-place.”
- Added management of residents who had close contact with someone with SARS-CoV-2 infection which includes a description of quarantine recommendations including resident placement, recommended PPE, and duration of quarantine.
- Added addressing circumstances when quarantine is recommended for residents who leave the facility.
- Added responding to a newly identified SARS-CoV-2-infected HCP or resident.
- Added addressing quarantine and work exclusion considerations for asymptomatic residents and HCP who are within 90 days of resolved infection.

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

Group Activities

- **Consider activities for residents not in quarantine or isolation:**
 - **Communal dining**
 - **Group activities**
 - **Social excursions outside facility**
- **Encourage physical distancing (6 feet), source control, and frequent hand hygiene**

Visitation

- **SNFs: Follow CMS guidance**
<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qs-o-20-39-nh-revised.pdf>
- **ALFs: DHS “Safer Visits” guidance**
- **Screening and communication**

Proper Use and Handling of PPE

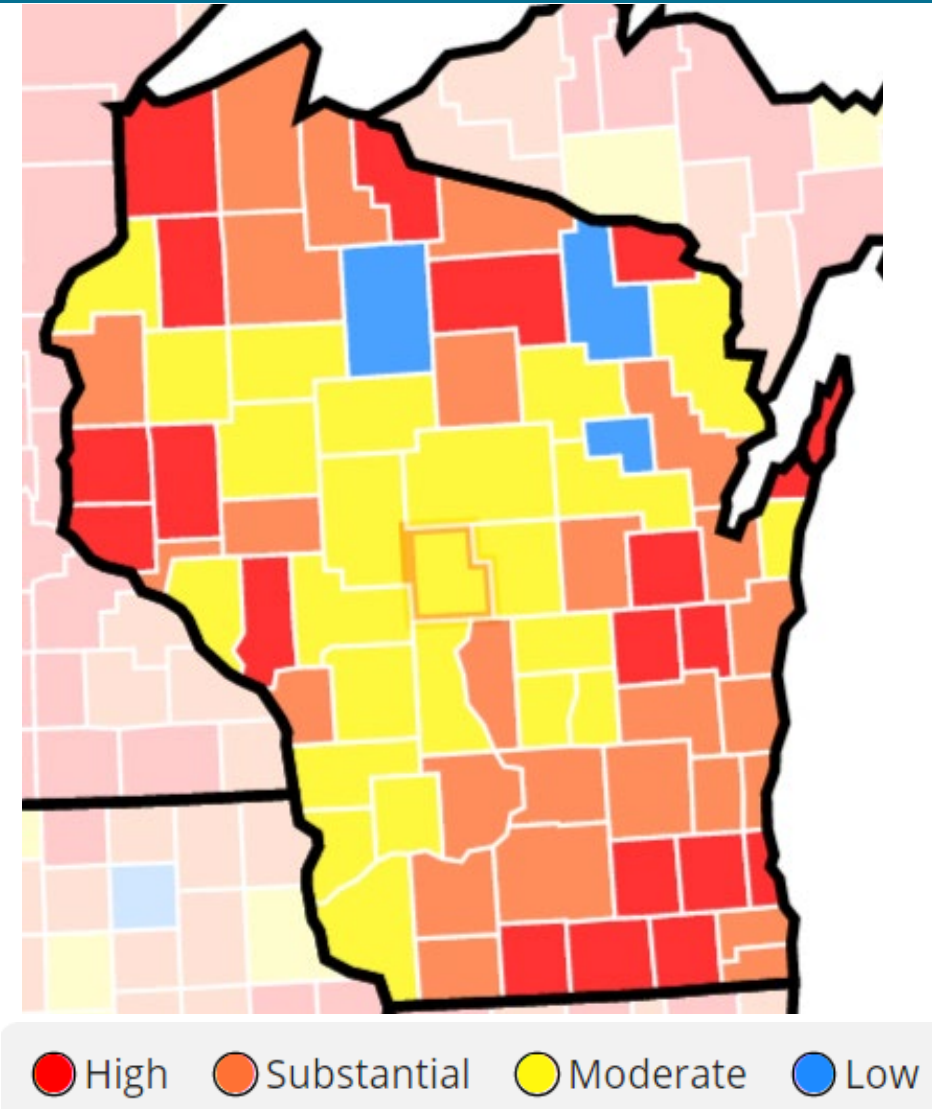
- **Develop and/or revise policies that address:**
 - **Which PPE to use and when**
 - **Recommended donning and doffing sequence**
- **Cleaning and disinfection**
- **Bundling care to conserve PPE**

Universal Use of Eye Protection

Substantial community transmission: Large scale community transmission, including communal settings (e.g., schools, workplaces)

Minimal to moderate community transmission: Sustained transmission with high likelihood or confirmed exposure within communal settings and potential for rapid increase in cases

No to minimal community transmission: Evidence of isolated cases or limited community transmission, case investigations underway; no evidence of exposure in large communal setting



Resident Evaluation

- **Continue to evaluate for fever and symptoms upon admission and at least daily for all residents**
- **Increase that monitoring to at least three times per day for residents with suspected or confirmed COVID-19**

Resident Room Doors

- **Close doors as much as possible for those with suspected or confirmed COVID-19, especially if not on a dedicated COVID unit**
- **Make exceptions for residents with safety concerns (i.e., risk assess based on resident)**
- **Work with engineering to minimize airflow into the hallway**

Room-based Quarantine

When single rooms are unavailable for residents with known exposures or COVID symptoms, have the resident shelter-in-place pending test results.

When Residents Leave Facility

- **Create a plan**
- **Educate resident and anyone taking them out on risks and recommended practices**
- **Risk assess visits**

Quarantine

- **Without known exposure, quarantine is not required for:**
 - **Fully vaccinated new admissions/readmissions**
 - **Those leaving for routine medical appointments**
 - **Those leaving for less than 24 hours**
- **Consider quarantine if the outside visit is high risk or uncertainty exists about IPC adherence while out**

Visits Beyond 24 Hours

- **Unvaccinated residents: Quarantine**
- **Fully vaccinated residents: No quarantine unless known exposure**
- **Consider risk assessments**

Consider the Risk

- **Is this a visit to a fully vaccinated family member's house for the weekend without any outside activities or other contacts?**
- **Is this a large family reunion with people coming in from around the state or country?**

Prolonged Close Contact

- **Prolonged contact = close contact**
- **Within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes over 24 hours**
- **Consider proximity, length of time, whether one was symptomatic, whether an activity produced respiratory aerosols, and ventilation in the space**

Resident Re-Exposures

- **Asymptomatic residents within 90 days of a prior infection typically do not require quarantine or testing following re-exposure.**
- **Possible case-by-case exceptions for:**
 - **Certain immunocompromising conditions**
 - **First infection was an asymptomatic antigen positive without a confirmatory PCR positive**
 - **Known exposure to a variant**

**No Changes to Outbreak
or Testing Guidance**

Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAI) Prevention Program

Save the Date:

Optimization Strategies for Respirator Use in Long-Term Care Facilities

Thursday, April 15; 10:30–11:30am

Join us for a presentation and discussion with infection preventionists (IPs) from the Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAI) Prevention Program in the Division of Public Health on optimization strategies for respirator use in long-term care facilities (LTCFs) during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Presenters will review CDC optimization strategies for respirator use and walk participants through sample "real life" scenarios. The aim of this program is to walk through the strategy evaluation process to increase LTCF staff and administrators' comfort in selecting and implementing appropriate respiratory protection optimization strategies during times of personal protective equipment (PPE) shortages.

The presentation will be recorded and available on the DHS website for those unable to attend on April 15.

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/WIDHS/bulletins/2ca468f>

Questions?

DHS HAI Prevention Program

dhswhaipreventionprogram@dhs.wisconsin.gov

608-267-7711

ashlie.dowdell@dhs.wisconsin.gov

HAI Prevention Program IPs

Nikki Mueller

608-628-4464,

nicole.mueller1@dhs.wisconsin.gov

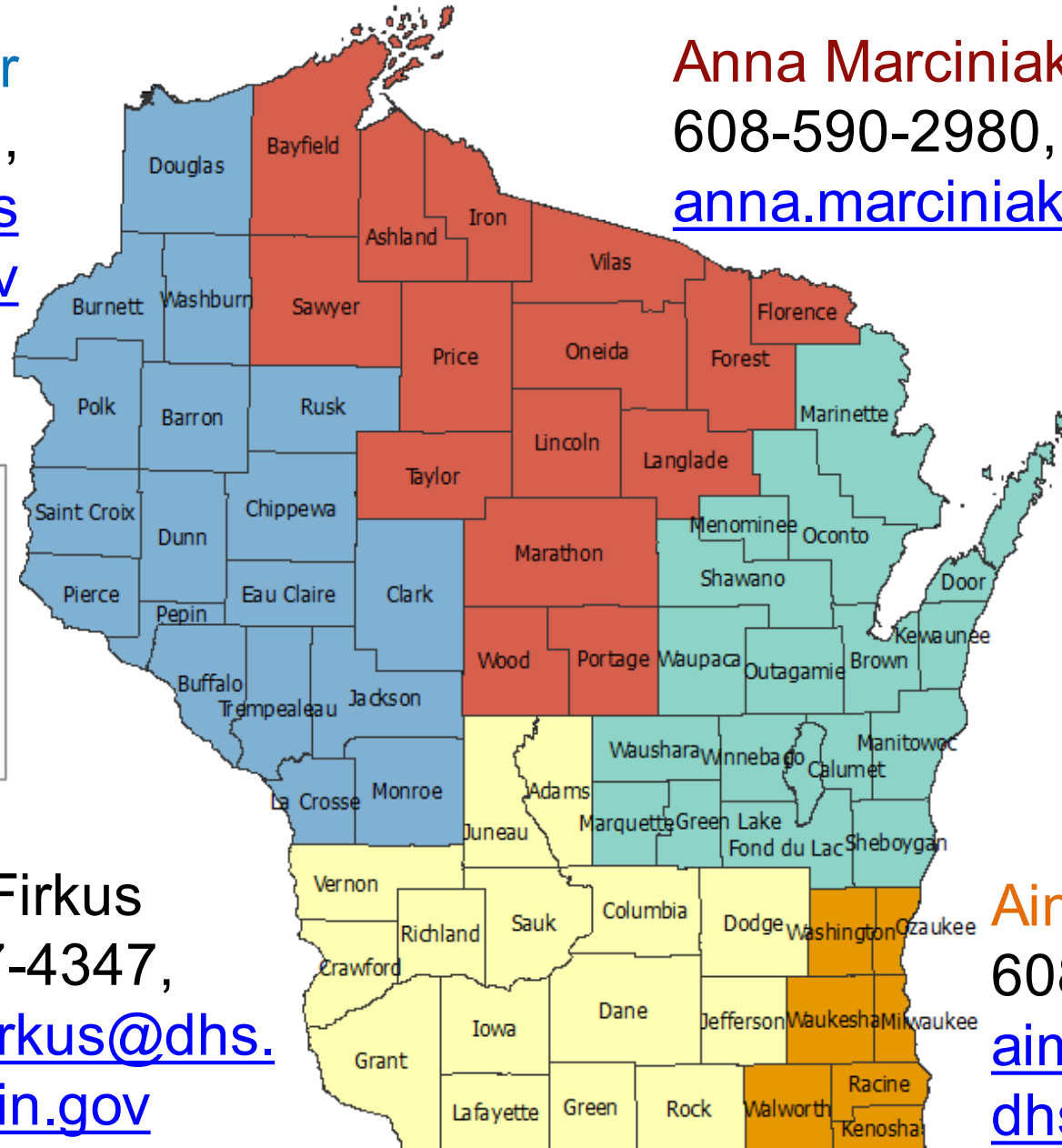
Anna Marciniak

608-590-2980,

anna.marciniak@dhs.wisconsin.gov

Part-time IPs
Linda Coakley
Vera Pischke

Central Office
Beth Ellinger
608-219-3483
beth.ellinger@dhs.wisconsin.gov



Greta Beyer

608-867-4647,

greta.beyer@dhs.wisconsin.gov

Stacey Firkus

608-867-4347,

stacey.firkus@dhs.wisconsin.gov

Aimee Mikesch

608-867-4625,

aimee.mikesch@dhs.wisconsin.gov