

Long-Term Care Facilities COVID-19 Advisory Group – Meeting Minutes

APRIL 21, 2021
3:00PM-4:00PM

Review and approval of meeting minutes:

- Reviewed meeting minutes from last meeting – Approved and Seconded.

Safe Start Plan Update:

Group met earlier this week on Safe Start Plans.

Questions about what guidance to use for people who are nonessential and are not “visitors” who enter the building for other reasons.

The visitation section is sort of unhelpful in how it guides the rest of the document.

Update on meeting with Governor’s office:

The meeting went well.

The key message from the Governor’s office was really that “time has gone on and we may have new information to give the Governor to inform decisions as things stand today”

Per Patricia, Amy Freeman drafted a proposal. They felt the Governor’s office was receptive. They asked that the Governor reconsider adopting the CDC/CMS criteria that looks at county positivity.

We should be prepared to offer a plan B if the Governor is not going to adopt the CDC/CMS guidance.

There is the balance of harm vs benefit for the residents.

We now have vaccine and antibody therapy etc.

And we appreciate that the Governor is concerned.

We just have concerns about ongoing isolation.

There is a Delphi process and development of best practices underway. It looks at the impact of vaccinated to unvaccinated; and vaccinated to vaccinated to determine what makes sense in terms of resident interaction.

The document is being finalized and we would like to discuss at the next meeting.

ACTION ITEM: Add to agenda for next meeting.

A lot of this will hinge on the Governor’s decision and we have asked for a decision before Mother’s Day.

Amy Abbott reported spending time on the CCRSS documents.

They will be a little different.

They’ve been sent out to CCRSS associated providers. The approach is a little different that in other settings. For example whether they have 24/7 staff makes a difference in visitation, infection control practices, etc.

Monoclonal antibody therapy: CMS released additional guidance. The combination has changed.

According to RCS, there have not been many requests to utilize the rapid response teams to assist with this.

Question: Are rapid response teams available on the weekend? Can you request one on a weekend? Yes, they are available 24/7 and RCS monitors submission of the forms on weekends as well so there is no gap or delay.

CDC shared today that they will be releasing guidance as early as Friday 4/23 on visitation, group activities and testing.

[On March 29, the interim infection guidelines changed for PPE.](#)

For administrators and other staff in the building not treating patients, they should wear universal source control.

Question: what are RCS surveyors doing with regard to their PPE when they are coming into the building?

Response from RCS: they are directed to follow the DOH recommendations for direct care workers – same guidance in terms of in a patient care area or not.

Legislative update:

HB 1120 – DSHS/ALTSA COVID legislation passed. This bill allows for recovery in long-term care from the pandemic.

HB 1218 also passed as did the Behavioral health Ombuds bill.

Vaccine Update – Kathy Bay:

ACIP meeting Friday to review J&J cases.

Working on next steps and recommendations.

There has been no information on additional cases even in the scientific literature.

Hospital programs continue. They have switched to Pfizer or Moderna.

2 hospitals in Spokane paused before implementation to see what happens with J&J.

We are looking into best practice webinar for hospital vaccination program.

In our last conversation with Omnicare, they have said they can only do clinics in facilities for 10 patients or more. We are working with them and provided guidance about administering to smaller groups.

Question: We heard Omnicare was sending residents out to get vaccines?

No, what DOH has heard from conversations with Omnicare is they are expecting to receive additional vaccine this week. Effective 4/26 to begin vaccinating (they drop vaccinations off at facilities and facility administrators).

Omnicare announced a distribution model that involves scheduling delivery after they receive a request from a facility.

Pharmerica should be vaccinating this week. It would be good to verify if this is happening as they said they were receiving a shipment of Moderna this week.

Comment: We need staff vaccinations to happen as well. If we make it easy for staff to get them, we'll see more success in numbers. If the 10 or more vaccination grouping is an issue, have staff bring in their family for vaccination. Other states are doing that.

Response: there are some concerns about having family members of staff come into the facility to be vaccinated (spread of COVID, etc).

Omnicare doesn't service many AFHs; they are more typically a provider for larger facilities.

Readicare – the only concern from AFH's perspective is that they are still only vaccinating residents and not staff.

Comment: We've heard about a challenge in ordering small numbers of doses but there are smaller numbers of doses coming in to smaller pharmacies and clinics.

When do we start planning boosters?

We are seeing variance in community and still have yet to determine when to do boosters.

In terms of hospital system, Multicare is vaccinating now. UW system at Harborview, NW and Valley are all underway. They will expand across UW.

Swedish is ongoing.

Holy Family and Sacred Heart in Spokane are paused due to J&J issue.

WSHA has been a great partner in the hospital program.

The hospitals have been very receptive.

Swedish shared best practices with St. Luke's in Spokane and Holy Family and Sacred Heart.

Question: Are vaccinations in hospitals for patients transitioning to long-term care include all settings (in-home long-term care included)?

Response: We talk very specifically with hospitals about specific settings like AFH, ALF, Nursing Facility. Not sure if it would include patients transitioning to home health.

Most hospitals are screening upon admission for those likely to go to a facility.

Agenda for next meeting:

Follow up on today's agenda items.

Updates on visitation and social interaction for vaccinated residents – best practices, etc.

Other Safe Start updates
Case trends and vaccination updates

*Please note: Comments expressed by individual stakeholders within these minutes do not necessarily represent the views of the entire advisory group.