

Moving Needles Project Newsletter



! PROJECT UPDATES: **WHAT'S NEW WITH MOVING NEEDLES**

The Round 1 pilot of the Moving Needles project is complete! We celebrate the 9 long-term care facilities that participated in the project and provided monthly data on immunization rates. Many successes were realized, and lessons learned to continue making routine adult immunizations a standard of care for PALTC residents and an expectation for staff.

All 9 facilities worked hard to introduce the bivalent COVID-19 immunization among residents between October and December 2022. Most came close to or exceeded their rates for the initial monovalent COVID-19 booster. Increasing staff COVID-19 vaccination rates was more challenging but 7 of the 9 facilities exceeded the national average.

Facilities focused on more than the COVID-19 vaccine; efforts were made to increase resident vaccination rates for influenza, pneumococcal, shingles, and Tdap, and staff rates for influenza and hepatitis B. Many facilities realized sizeable increases and identified challenges to tackle moving forward.

AMDA is currently onboarding another cohort of skilled nursing and assisted living facilities for Round 2 of the project. We look forward to expanding the project and applying the knowledge gained during Round 1.

For more information about the project see the **Moving Needles website**.

PILOT FACILITY SPOTLIGHT

Name: Saber - Elkins Crest

Type of Facility - Skilled Nursing

- Number of Beds: 150
- Total Number of Employees: 173
- Location: Elkins Park, PA
- Staff Intervention Chosen:

Address staff concerns: Implement a standard process to check for hepatitis B vaccination status among new and current staff.

- Resident Intervention Chosen: Adopt standard operating procedures: reminder recall process.



"Participation in Moving Needles has proven to be very effective in the increase of vaccinations for our residents and staff across the board. We were given different approaches and ideas that were helpful in increasing vaccine acceptance amongst residents and staff. The greatest factors in moving the needle were trust and follow up! We had many 'maybes' that converted into vaccine compliance. We also found that focusing on one vaccine at a time and vaccinating facility wide worked best for us."

- Jasmine Jones, RN, Director of Nursing

Pictured l-r: Jasmine Jones and Damari Briggs, RN, Assistant Director of Nursing at Elkins Crest



Do You Know Your Recommended Vaccines?

The Tdap vaccine can prevent tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis. These diseases can cause painful and serious health problems, disability, and death. Tetanus (also called lockjaw) enters the body through cuts or wounds. While rare in the US, most cases (including most fatal cases) are in elderly patients. Diphtheria and pertussis (also known as whooping cough) are communicable, meaning they can spread from person to person, particularly in close living spaces such as LTC facilities. Elderly individuals are at increased risk for complications and death from these diseases. Vaccination is the best protection for residents of LTC facilities AND the staff who care for them. At present Tdap vaccination rates among residents and staff of LTC facilities lag behind those of other healthcare settings.

The CDC recommends the Tdap vaccine for children over 7, adolescents, and adults. Adults should receive a booster every 10 years. Several versions of the vaccine are licensed by the FDA and are proven highly effective in preventing disease and disease severity. The vaccines are readily available at physician offices, pharmacies, health clinics, and some workplaces.

See CDC guidance and information on the Tdap vaccine here.

Featured Resource

Hepatitis B Fact Sheet



AMDA

DESCRIPTION

AMDA developed this fact sheet to provide information on hepatitis B and how healthcare workers and others can protect themselves and their loved ones.

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT

Healthcare workers are an identified risk group for contracting hepatitis B. This fact sheet describes the disease, and how a safe and effective vaccine can provide lifetime protection.

HOW TO ACCESS

<https://movingneedles.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/AMDA-2313-FAQ-Hepatitis-Flyer-R7.pdf>

TIPS & TIDBITS

Looking back on Round 1 AMDA gathered lessons learned to improve the project implementation. For this first in the series of "Best Practices" we highlight:

Creating Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)

- Establish a routine time to assess resident vaccination status and a schedule for offering vaccines.
- Routinize assessing and offering vaccines to staff.
- Add resident and staff vaccination assessment to employee job descriptions, making sure individuals in those positions are supportive of vaccinations and efforts to increase vaccination rates.
- Consider how to gather, record, and store vaccination data so that it is readily accessible. Consider making it part of the hiring process for staff.
- Spread vaccination efforts throughout the year, such as on a calendar basis. This will allow for a more consistent workflow and avoid inundating residents and staff with multiple vaccination messages at once.



LEARN MORE

For more information about the project or to subscribe to this newsletter, visit our website, scan the QR code, or contact movingneedles@paltc.org

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