

Long Term Care Facilities and COVID-19

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Long-term care settings

Oregon has led the nation in providing community-based care options for older adults and people with disabilities. The number and type of licensed facilities in Oregon is dominated by these settings:

- Adult foster homes – about **1,400**.
- Assisted living and residential care facilities – **558**;
 - Of these, **217** have memory care endorsements.
- Nursing facilities – **130**.

Support and monitoring during pandemic

Multiple preventive and proactive COVID-19 policies and initiatives were instituted in 2020 including:

- In March 2020, conducted on-site reviews of emergency plans at more than **670 facilities** statewide.
- Policy adopted in March required Executive Orders (EOs) for facilities with a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 in a resident or staff member:
 - EOs put additional infection control protections in place;
 - **2,870 EOs** issued involving **848 facilities** as of May 20, 2021.
- Starting in April 2020, facilities with EOs in place received a focused infection control review:
 - Many received reviews weekly with the frequency based on the nature of the outbreak;
 - More than **3,500 total reviews** completed including over **2,000** for community-based care settings.

Support and monitoring during pandemic

Continued:

- Interagency facility support teams formed to provided wraparound services for **34 facilities** with outbreaks;
 - Included coordinated support from ODHS, OHA and the Local Public Health Authority.
- Set up a statewide network of **7 COVID-19 Recovery Units** to help manage outbreaks at facilities.
- Deployed routine COVID-19 testing policies that go beyond federal requirements;
 - Routine surveillance testing of staff who have NOT been fully vaccinated will continue to be required on a monthly basis.
- ODHS and OHA collaborated to provide instructional infection control webinars for facilities.

Outcomes from COVID-19 activity

Regulatory action taken and national ranking:

- **229** infection control tags (deficiencies) issued;
 - Nearly **\$500,000** in federal fines and civil penalties issued.
- More than **1,400 Oregonians served** by COVID-19 Recovery Units since April 2020.
 - As outbreaks decrease, number of COVID-19 Recovery Units has decreased from 7 to 4.
- Performance rankings:
 - CMS ranks Oregon in the **lowest of 5 categories** for incidence of COVID-19 cases and deaths in nursing facilities;
 - Oregon had the **fourth fewest cases** and **fifth fewest deaths** per 100,000 residents among states, according to data from the COVID Tracking Project from January 20, 2021.

SOS advisory report

Secretary of State advisory report, issued in March 2021, evaluated the state's COVID-19 pandemic response in protecting long-term care facilities.

- APD is committed to continuous improvement and plans a full review of its COVID-19 response related to long-term care facilities.
- Among the actions already taken that are in line with recommendations:
 - Redirecting some COVID-19 related facility reviews to resume routine survey activities in community-based care facilities.
 - Engaging with the Governor's Office and the Legislature on resources necessary to normalize activities and analyzing the new funding for survey activities offered in the American Rescue Plan.
 - Adopting a system to collect vaccination data on an ongoing basis, as needed to inform vaccination progress.

Getting back to normal (post COVID)

With strong vaccine uptake and decreasing outbreaks, APD has normalized its focus away from pandemic response:

- Hiring surveyors;
- Addressing backlog of licensing complaints;
- Returning to regular survey cycle.

2021 Legislative Session

- **HB2327:** Emergency/ Pandemic Preparedness.
- **HB2394:** Isolation Prevention.
- **HB2397:** Better coordination between long term care facilities and emergency medical services providers.
- **SB266:** Standards for measuring staffing adequacy.
- **SB556:** Specifies licensing inspections must be in person.
- **SB703:** Study cost of care and direct care workforce compensation.
- **SB714:** Prescribes additional requirements for acuity-based staffing tool.

COVID-19 Response and Recovery Unit (CRRU) Vision Statement

An equitable, efficient and effective COVID-19 response and recovery effort.

CRRU Mission

- To successfully prevent the spread and mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 across all Oregon and tribal communities while laying the foundation for future response efforts by:
 - *Elevating community voices*
 - *Centering equity*
 - *Providing support and services*
 - *Responding in a coordinated, agile way*

Vaccinating Oregon's Long-Term Care Settings

- **79%** of Oregon's population over age 65+ have received one or two doses of vaccine
- During January-April 2021, over **1,200** long-term care and congregate care settings were served by Walgreens, Consonus and CVS
 - Up to three on-site clinics over the course of 12 weeks
 - Over 70,000 resident doses administered
 - Over 55,000 staff doses administered
- Over **1,300** Adult Foster Homes (including APD and ODDS) have been connected to on-site mobile vaccine solutions through local, state, federal and private solutions involving home health, EMS, pharmacies, and mobile teams

Targeted Efforts: COVID-19 Vaccine Navigators

- Peer-to-peer vaccine confidence building calls and post-cards
 - Targeted data matching to identify individuals receiving Medicaid long-term support services in the home with immunization status
 - Outreach through trusted messengers such as doctors and case managers
 - Connecting older adults to vaccines in their homes
 - Provide transportation to vaccination sites
 - Fliers and outreach through Meals-on-Wheels
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- Thank you to advocates SeniorCorps, AARP, Governor's Commission on Senior Services, and LTC Ombuds, Alzheimer Association and Advocates for advocacy for this style of ground campaign

Targeted Efforts: Vaccine Confidence and Policy Incentives

- Focusing on building **vaccine confidence** through education and peer to peer work
- Implement and monitor success of **policy incentives**:
 - Universal eye protection is required for staff only under certain criteria, one of which being that fewer than 70% of staff in facility are vaccinated as of May 15 (fewer than 75% as of June 15).
 - Vaccinated individuals will no longer be required to undergo routine asymptomatic surveillance testing in community-based care settings

Ongoing Vaccination Maintenance in Long-Term Care

- Support long-term care facilities to **maintain a 75% vaccination rate** for residents and staff
- **Address any gaps** for facilities seeking ongoing access to vaccinations for residents and staff
- Provide guides and training webinars to ensure facilities have resources and know their options
 - Long-term care pharmacies have entered into an agreement with the CDC and state to administer vaccines to facilities on an ongoing basis
 - Facility health care personnel can register to become vaccinators and obtain vaccine
- Set up sustainable infrastructure to move to system similar to flu vaccines
- Provided dedicated vaccine allocations until vaccine is available in the private market
- Coordinate locally

Monitor Progress

Policy Goal: Obtain and maintain a 75% vaccination rate for staff and residents in facilities

- ODHS and OHA issued policy guidance in March, 2021 asking facilities to report vaccine data to OHA
 - OHA provided vaccine reporting portal to collect weekly data for nursing facilities, assisted living facilities and residential care facilities (~688 facilities)
- 70% of facilities have reported data voluntarily
- Federal rule was issued May 11 to require nursing facilities (~130 in Oregon) report vaccine data by June 13th
- ODHS and OHA are pursuing administrative rule to align reporting requirements for non-federally regulated long-term care settings (~550 assisted living and residential care facilities) with federally regulated facilities
- Requiring facilities to report vaccination rates was a suggestion from the Secretary of State advisory report.
- Ensuring consistent methodology and 100% reporting to publicly report

Summary and Next Steps

- Great work done in Oregon with 79% vaccination rate for older adults
- Focus on vaccine confidence and targeted efforts
- Ensure monitoring and tracking system is in place
- Target equity-based mobile efforts for hard-to-reach populations
- Use infrastructure built for home-based vaccine delivery for children/youth with complex health needs
- Preparing system to be able to deliver booster doses (if needed) by fall and winter for long-term care
- Plan for alignment of work with legislative priorities

Thank you!