



ICARE

Less Antibiotics, More Vaccines

Antibiotics and vaccinations can impact not only a resident's health but also the health of other residents and staff in the nursing home community.

Nursing home communities must have an antibiotic stewardship program as part of their infection prevention and control plan.

Nursing homes must also make certain vaccinations available and accessible in order to minimize the risk of acquiring, transmitting, or having complications due to common infections.

Antibiotic Stewardship Program

The goal of the antibiotic stewardship program is to provide the right drug and dose for the right duration, and in the right way (for example orally or through a person's veins). Actions to promote appropriate antibiotic use include:

- Having written policies regarding antibiotic prescribing practices
- Monitoring antibiotic prescribing practices and reporting practice to those who prescribe antibiotics to residents in the nursing home

Vaccinations for Residents

Nursing homes are required to make three vaccines available to all residents: influenza, pneumococcal, and COVID-19. Please see the information below for more information on these and other, recommended vaccinations for residents.

- **Influenza:** Must be offered each year from October 1 through March 31.
- **Pneumococcal:** Protects against a bacteria which can cause pneumonia.
- **COVID-19:** Includes a primary series and boosters; prevents severe health outcomes.
- **Tetanus, diphtheria (Td) and pertussis (Tdap):** Td every ten years; Tdap one time.
- **Shingles:** Two doses to prevent painful blisters, chronic pain, & other complications.
- **Hepatitis B:** Only for who are at high risk for infection such as those on dialysis.

For an updated vaccine schedule, please visit the [CDC's Adult Immunization Schedule](#).

Want to know more? Contact [your nursing home advocate](#) or send an email to ICARE@unthsc.edu

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