

# All Hands on Deck

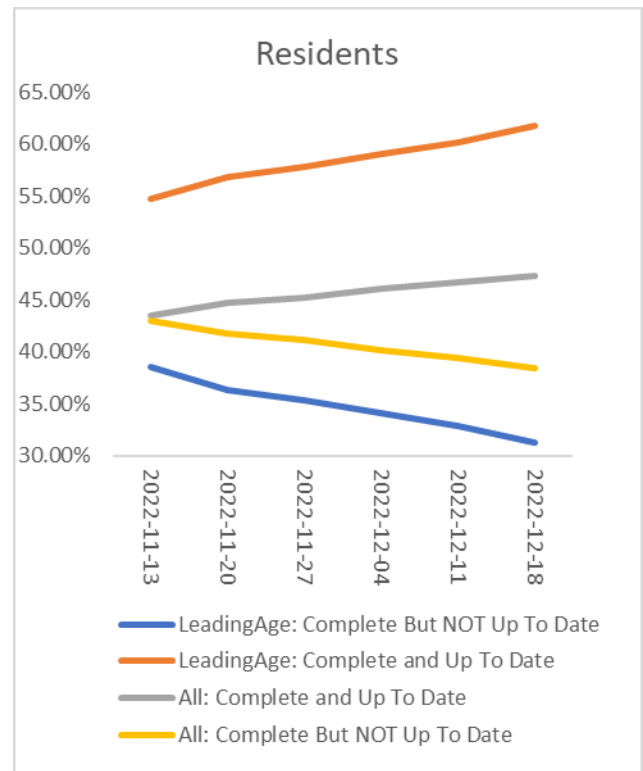
## IMPROVING RESIDENT BIVALENT BOOSTER UPTAKE

### SHOW ME THE DATA

Bivalent Tracker as of 2022-12-29

All Nursing Homes						
COVID-19 Vaccination Status for Residents in SNFs who Submitted Data and Passed the Quality Check						
Week Ending	Complete and Up To Date	Complete But NOT Up To Date	Declined	Partial	Unknown Status	Medical Contraindication
2022-11-13	43.53%	43.02%	10.01%	1.55%	1.62%	0.00%
2022-11-20	44.66%	41.75%	10.08%	1.56%	1.67%	0.00%
2022-11-27	45.25%	41.11%	10.08%	1.55%	1.71%	0.00%
2022-12-04	46.05%	40.18%	10.14%	1.53%	1.81%	0.00%
2022-12-11	46.69%	39.47%	10.22%	1.57%	1.76%	0.00%
2022-12-18	47.27%	38.39%	10.73%	1.61%	1.73%	0.00%

LeadingAge Member Nursing Homes						
COVID-19 Vaccination Status for Residents in SNFs who Submitted Data and Passed the Quality Check						
Week Ending	Complete and Up To Date	Complete But NOT Up To Date	Declined	Partial	Unknown Status	Medical Contraindication
2022-11-13	54.69%	38.54%	5.36%	0.69%	0.53%	0.00%
2022-11-20	56.86%	36.36%	5.34%	0.70%	0.54%	0.00%
2022-11-27	57.81%	35.40%	5.35%	0.71%	0.53%	0.00%
2022-12-04	59.02%	34.06%	5.44%	0.70%	0.58%	0.00%
2022-12-11	60.12%	32.90%	5.46%	0.72%	0.60%	0.00%
2022-12-18	61.71%	31.32%	5.51%	0.74%	0.51%	0.00%



### WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

The percentage of residents in the complete but up to date group has increased by 3.75 percentage points from 2022-11-13 to 2022-12-18 while the LeadingAge member nursing homes have seen an increase of 7.01 percentage points during this same period.

## ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK

- Summary of materials now available to support All Hands On Deck (new materials continually added):
  - [All Hands on Deck landing page](#) on LeadingAge.org
  - Provided and distributed [External messaging](#) for provider members and
  - Designed a [graphics toolkit](#) for members (flyer, poster, social media, signature block)
  - Launched [State-Specific Assets](#) resource page for members
  - Press Release: [HUD, HHS and LeadingAge Partner to Bring Free COVID-19 Test Kits to Nearly Half a Million Residents of Affordable Senior Housing](#)
- We discussed the challenges related to increasing the number of boosted nursing home residents and staff on the LeadingAge Nursing Home Network call this week. Here are some highlights and comments from that highly engaged discussion:
  - **“Most older people want the bivalent booster and we aren’t having any problems with access.”** This comment came from all parts of the country. [We hope the numbers will bear this out and continue trending up.]
  - **“We haven’t filled out the MOU to become an official vaccinator because things are going smoothly.”**
  - **“We were really pleased that HHS communicated to hospitals about vaccination/boosters as part of discharge.”** One person reported that they reached out to local hospitals based on the HHS communication, to ask them to re-evaluate their discharge policies to include boosters.
  - Participants identified a couple of things that would help residents who have not yet requested a bivalent booster to accept one. One suggestion was that “it would help if people knew this was a once-a-year thing, versus every few months hearing there’s a new booster and you need it.” We recognize this may not be possible yet, but as soon as it is possible, communication along these lines might inspire more confidence and willingness to accept the booster.
  - Many who participated in the discussion identified a goal of increasing the number of staff who accept the booster, but pointed to some challenges:
    - General COVID fatigue and vaccine fatigue.
    - Concerns about side effects (“I have two staff who believe the vaccine gave them afib.”)
    - Staff saw the connection to residents before but they don’t see that connection for this booster.
    - Vaccine resistance may be even stronger: “the more I educate the more they resist.” (this quote came from a provider who reports 50% of frontline staff have had the bivalent booster.)
  - The group also discussed some solutions to the challenges with staff:
    - Can we get materials from HHS that are targeted to staff under age 40? Those over that age are more likely to accept the booster.
    - Those under 40 tend to have the attitude: “I’ll just get COVID.” Providers have found that clinical staff explaining the neurological complications of COVID may be having some impact.

## STATE PARTNER HIGHLIGHTS

- Will continue to send state-by-state analysis to state partners each week and will report back to HHS on how they use it.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- We raised two concerns related to access to COVID tests in this weekly report to HHS last Friday, December 23. One related to nursing homes and assisted living providers who need more test supplies than they are receiving from HHS. The other related to other provider types (e.g., HCBS including adult day, home health, hospice, life plan communities (also known as continuing care retirement communities), and others.

Meg Sullivan (ASPR) reached out almost immediately, then followed up with a meeting on Tuesday, December 27 with herself and Matthew Humbar. In a brief discussion Matt provided a solution that we will work with him to put in place and get up and running.

Kudos to HHS – and specifically to Meg and Matt - for reading and acting on this request for assistance after hours and just a short time before Christmas, during a long weekend. We appreciate the solution-oriented collaboration.

- Many LeadingAge members would welcome additional materials that could be used with staff, particularly those under 40 to encourage them to accept boosters.
- We are not hearing that access is a problem for nursing home residents seeking bivalent boosters.
- One QIO leader reached out to us this week about an upcoming webinar on the evidence for bivalent boosters, asking that we share with LeadingAge members across the country. We will do so. In addition, we would welcome regular communication (emails?) from HHS that consolidates relevant QIO offerings that we can in turn promote to all members.
- A state partner shared this adult activity book from Alliant Health. [Immunization Activity Book \(allianthealth.org\)](https://www.allianthealth.org) The only thing missing is a bivalent booster wordle!

## LOOKING FORWARD

- Member calls on Monday and Wednesday at 3:30 Eastern. Ashish Jha will join us on Wednesday, January 4 to talk about the bivalent booster push and “all things COVID.”
- We will welcome HHS leadership participation on a call to discuss All Hands on Deck partnership.
- While the focus of All Hands on Deck is residents, we put together a list of LeadingAge member organizations with 75% or more of staff that are up to date. We are planning to gather information from them to understand how they achieved this and what materials/resources they used.

# DATA DICTIONARY

- Total
  - The total residents listed in the data published by CMS from the NHSN from nursing homes who submitted data and the data passed the quality check.
- Medical Contraindication
  - The number of residents from the total who cannot receive the COVID-19 vaccination due to a medical contraindication.
- Declined
  - The number of residents from the total who have declined the COVID-19 vaccination for a reason that is not a medical contraindication.
- Unknown Status
  - The number of residents from the total who have any of the following:
    - Unknown vaccination status
    - Only one dose of an unknown/unspecified manufacturer. This individual is categorized as unknown vaccination status because it is unclear if this single unspecified dose represents a partial or complete primary series.
    - A gap between their start date and the first status date that is entered, such as start date 1/1, declined on 2/3. The individual will be categorized as unknown vaccination status from 1/1 to 2/2
- Complete
  - The number of residents from the total who have completed the primary series of the COVID-19 vaccination.
- Up To Date (as of 9/26/2022 to 12/25/2022)
  - The number of residents from the total in which any of the following is true:
    - Received an updated bivalent booster dose
    - Received their last booster dose less than 2 months ago
    - Completed their primary series less than 2 months ago

**For additional details, please contact Ruth Katz, Senior Vice President for Policy, LeadingAge ([RKatz@LeadingAge.org](mailto:RKatz@LeadingAge.org))**