

All Hands on Deck

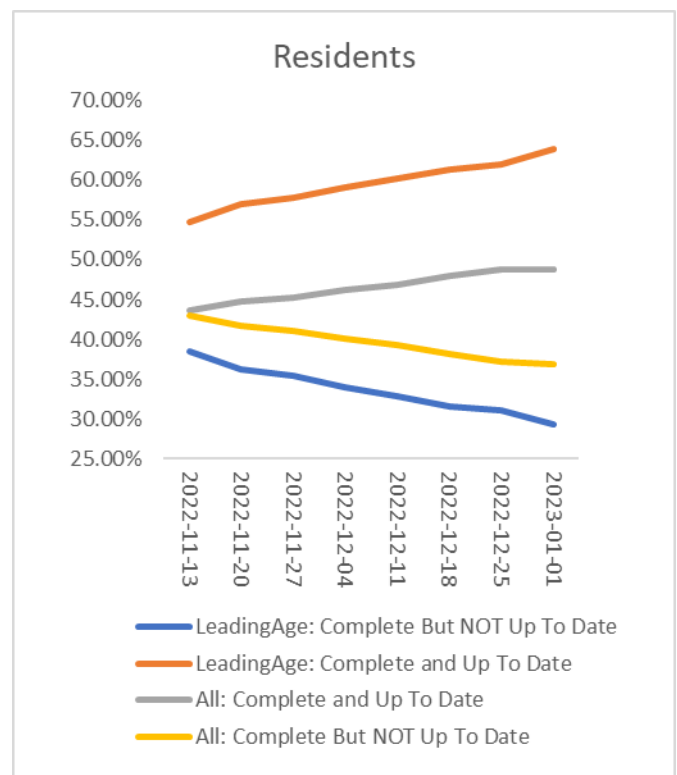
IMPROVING RESIDENT BIVALENT BOOSTER UPTAKE

SHOW ME THE DATA

Bivalent Tracker as of 2023-01-13

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	43.55%	42.99%	10.01%	1.55%	1.62%	0.27%
2022-11-20	44.68%	41.74%	10.07%	1.55%	1.67%	0.28%
2022-11-27	45.31%	41.06%	10.07%	1.55%	1.71%	0.29%
2022-12-04	46.23%	40.02%	10.13%	1.53%	1.80%	0.28%
2022-12-11	46.84%	39.32%	10.22%	1.57%	1.76%	0.29%
2022-12-18	47.96%	38.14%	10.26%	1.58%	1.77%	0.29%
2022-12-25	48.82%	37.17%	10.30%	1.60%	1.80%	0.30%
2023-01-01	48.72%	36.81%	10.80%	1.62%	1.78%	0.28%

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	54.74%	38.49%	5.36%	0.69%	0.54%	0.19%
2022-11-20	56.91%	36.30%	5.34%	0.70%	0.54%	0.20%
2022-11-27	57.85%	35.35%	5.36%	0.71%	0.54%	0.19%
2022-12-04	59.07%	34.00%	5.45%	0.70%	0.58%	0.20%
2022-12-11	60.20%	32.82%	5.46%	0.72%	0.59%	0.20%
2022-12-18	61.38%	31.63%	5.45%	0.74%	0.60%	0.20%
2022-12-25	61.90%	31.03%	5.48%	0.77%	0.62%	0.21%
2023-01-01	63.94%	29.33%	5.26%	0.73%	0.55%	0.20%



WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

63.94% of LeadingAge member nursing home residents have had a bivalent booster, compared to **48.72%** of all nursing home residents in the U.S. The percentage of residents in the complete but up to date group has increased by 5.17 percentage points from 2022-11-13 to 2023-01-01 while the LeadingAge member nursing homes have seen an increase of 9.20 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.
- **COVID tests.** LeadingAge members are welcoming the opportunities the federal government has provided to order COVID-19 test kits, including our partnership with HHS. In the first week of the

program we organized with HHS/ASPR, we received COVID-19 rapid test orders from 600 LeadingAge provider members and sent them to HHS to be fulfilled. We have learned that the HUD test ordering portal has received requests for 9,000 test kits, so far.

- We met with the Association of Consultant Pharmacies (LTC pharmacies) to talk about gaps in flu and COVID vaccination efforts with older individuals who use aging services other than nursing home or assisted living. We focused on how to deliver vaccines and boosters to individuals using affordable housing and adult day services. We continue to explore options that could involve LTC pharmacies and their specialized skills and services for older individuals.

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

- Thank you again to HHS for working so quickly with us to set up the various test ordering opportunities for LeadingAge members and for activating them so quickly. These opportunities are a direct outcome of the All Hands on Deck partnership.
- We would welcome materials specific to long-term care settings related to the January 13 CDC announcement related to the safety of Pfizer bivalent boosters.
- Many LeadingAge members would welcome additional materials that could be used with staff, particularly those under 40 to encourage them to accept boosters.

LOOKING FORWARD

- Member calls on Monday and Wednesday at 3:30 Eastern. No call on Monday, January 16, Martin Luther King Day. We very much look forward to Secretary Becerra coming to address our members on Wednesday, January 18 at 3:45.

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)