

Improving Vaccination Rates Among Residents in Long-term Care Facilities

Residents in long-term care facilities are at high risk for severe illness from respiratory viruses. It is critical that residents be vaccinated against flu, COVID-19, and RSV during respiratory illness season. High vaccination rates among residents help prevent facility outbreaks, reduce absences, and limit hospitalizations and deaths.

[Vaccination rates in facilities are too low](#). In Vermont, **Gill Odd Fellows Home** (Ludlow) and the **Pines at Rutland Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation** had the **highest resident vaccination rates** of over 85% in 2023-2024. Read some of the tips they shared below.

For support improving vaccination rates, contact AHS.VDHHAIEpi@vermont.gov.

Proactive Communication



- Use multiple communication channels like one-on-one discussions, calls to families, [posters in common areas](#), word-of-mouth, and social media. [Download our communication toolkit](#).

Education



- Address vaccine-related questions and [misconceptions](#).
- Proactively spend time on follow-ups and education, reinforcing the importance of vaccination.
- Make sure residents and families understand the benefits of vaccines with patient-focused discussions.

Convenience and Accessibility



- Provide on-site vaccination clinics to eliminate the need for outside appointments and to address geographic and transportation barriers.
- Offer additional vaccines like RSV, PNA, tetanus, and shingles.

Consent at Admission



- Obtain vaccination consent at admission or shortly afterwards to streamline decision-making and identify people in need of additional education.



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