

Introducing the AHRQ ECHO National Nursing Home COVID-19 Action Network

Protect your residents and staff

October 1, 2020

**AHRQ ECHO National Nursing
Home COVID-19 Action Network**



Our Team



Anna C. Faul, PhD
Executive Director
Trager Institute,
University of Louisville



Christian D. Furman, MD
Medical Director
Trager Institute,
University of Louisville



Laura Morton, MD
Division Chief
Geriatrics, Department
of Family and Geriatric
Medicine



Ruth Carrico, PhD
Infectious Disease Specialist,
Division of Infectious Diseases
University of Louisville

Our Team



Pamela A. Yankeelov, PhD
Director of Research, Trager
Institute,
University of Louisville

Joseph G. D'Ambrosio, PhD
Director of Wellness,
Trager Institute, University
of Louisville

Samantha G. Cotton, PhD
Compassionate Care
Specialist, Trager Institute,
University of Louisville

Barbara Gordon, MS
Director of Community
Engagement, Trager Institute,
University of Louisville

What is the COVID-19 Action Network?

- Supported by the federal Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) and in collaboration with the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI), Project ECHO is launching a National Nursing Home COVID-19 Action Network.
- We are actively recruiting nursing homes around the country to join in this interactive community of practice.
- The goal is to collaboratively advance improvements in COVID-19 preparedness, safety and infection control.



GOALS – Implement evidence-based best practices to help nursing homes to:

- Keep the virus out of nursing homes where it has not entered.
- Identify residents and staff who have been infected with the virus early.
- Prevent the spread of the virus between staff, residents and visitors.
- Provide safe, appropriate care to residents with mild and asymptomatic cases.
- Ensure staff practice safety measures to protect residents and themselves.
- Reduce social isolation for residents, families and staff.



How will we achieve our goals?

- Provide no-cost training and mentorship to thousands of nursing homes nationwide.
- Create a virtual learning community where nursing home staff can learn from experts and each other to expand the use of proven best practices.

The COVID-19 Action Network's Approach

- An interactive virtual community of practice using the ECHO model: guided mentorship to share complex ideas using an “all teach, all learn” environment.
- Weekly 60-minute sessions over 16 weeks that include a short lecture plus case-based presentations and discussion.
- Nursing home teams learning from experts and each other, and specialists learning from on-the-ground experience of nursing home teams.
- Sharing best practices that can be put to use immediately.

The COVID-19 Action Network's Approach

- Virtual sessions are facilitated by small multidisciplinary teams of subject matter and quality improvement experts.
- Nursing homes participate in virtual groups of 33-35 with up to 4 participants per nursing home.
- Sessions follow a standardized curriculum that is updated weekly to reflect new evidence and best practices.
- Project ECHO links together more than 100 local training centers with thousands of nursing homes in local learning communities embedded within a national action community.



Highlights of the curriculum

- PPE best practices
- Infection control practices
- COVID-19 testing
- Clinical management of asymptomatic and mild cases
- Minimizing the spread of COVID-19
- Managing social isolation



Why should nursing homes participate?

- Gain practical information, skills and resources.
- Connect to a virtual learning community of specialists and peers.
- Participation is free and voluntary.
- Nursing homes that participate will receive \$6,000 to compensate for the staff time involved.*
- Quality Improvement Certificate position participating nursing homes for portion of \$2 billion provider relief funding incentive.

*Available to nursing homes eligible to receive funding from the Provider Relief Fund. Most nursing homes are eligible.

How to get involved

- Training begins **this month** at the University of Louisville ECHO hub at the Trager Institute (University of Louisville Research Foundation)
- Contact Dr. Faul directly at anna.faul@Louisville.edu for more information or questions
- Sign up at following this link: [ECHO National Nursing Home COVID-19 Sign Up Form](#)
- Join future webinars at <https://hsc.unm.edu/echo/institute-programs/nursing-home/sessions.html>
- Contact University of New Mexico as the National Hub at ECHONursingHome@salud.unm.edu

Thank You

**AHRQ ECHO National Nursing
Home COVID-19 Action Network**



Agency for Healthcare
Research and Quality

