

December 8, 2020

Re: Join the National Nursing Home COVID-19 Action Network by Dec. 11, 2020 and Receive Free Infection Control Training and a Monetary Stipend Through Project ECHO!

Dear New York Nursing Home Leader:

The New York Academy of Medicine (NYAM) – in partnership with LeadingAge NY – will be offering a new program to help keep COVID-19 from spreading in New York’s nursing homes and prepare and equip staff to offer enhanced protection for residents and themselves. We invite you to join us in this essential effort, **which is free and offers participating facilities a \$6,000 stipend upon completion. Participation in the NYAM/ LeadingAge NY training initiative is limited to the first 35 nursing homes, and the initial deadline to sign up is this Friday, Dec. 11th.**

This 16-session training and mentoring program is part of the National Nursing Home COVID-19 Action Network supported by the federal Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality in collaboration with the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) and Project ECHO. The team at NYAM – together with LeadingAge NY – is participating in the Network as an official training center for nursing homes.

All Medicare- and Medicaid-eligible nursing homes in New York State are invited to join this free, voluntary program, which has six goals:

1. Keep the virus out of nursing homes.
2. Find out early if residents and staff have been infected.
3. Prevent the spread of the virus among staff, residents and visitors.
4. Provide safe, appropriate care to all residents, including those with COVID.
5. Ensure staff practice safety measures to protect residents and themselves.
6. Reduce social isolation for residents, families and staff.

Participants will receive education on best practices from renowned experts and learn from their peers. Each interactive weekly session will give nursing home staff an opportunity to raise concerns and discuss real front-line problems with both experts and peers, and to hear practical solutions. In this way, your staff will have a chance to share best practices and learn from their peers while benefiting from the guidance of nursing home and quality improvement

experts. Each session will include a 60-minute brief lecture or lesson paired with case presentations and discussion, followed by an optional 30-minute Q&A forum.

We are currently recruiting nursing homes throughout New York State interested in participating in this program and are signing up participants on a first come, first served basis. Our first training session is scheduled to launch on Wednesday, December 16th from 1-2:30pm and will continue every Wednesday from 1-2:30pm through March 17th.

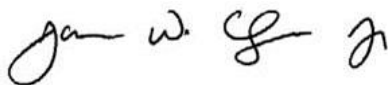
Our team will include LeadingAge NY ProCare consultants Dawn Carter, RN (infection control expert); Elliott Frost, LMSW (survey and regulatory expert) and Karen Puglisi, BSN, MHN, LNHA, RAC-CT (quality, regulatory and training expert), each of whom has New York nursing home-specific experience and knowledge. By participating, your staff can connect with experts from the IHI, NYAM and LeadingAge NY in a virtual learning community and ensure that they, like all healthcare workers, have the most up-to-date best practices and the guidance to implement them.

To participate, you must enroll at least two staff members in this training, which is geared towards clinical staff including doctors, nurses, CNAs, infection control personnel, and administrative officers (e.g., nurse leaders, medical directors). Participants will increase their knowledge of infection control and quality improvement and receive the support of a network of peers and colleagues. Additional benefits of participating in this program include **a \$6,000 stipend to each facility** for successful completion of the program, and a certificate of completion for participating individuals.

If your facility is interested in participating in the 14-week ECHO training, please complete this [Zoom registration form](#) for EACH STAFF MEMBER that would like to attend this training. While there is no specific limit on the number of participating staff from each facility, facilities must designate at least two staff members that can attend the entire 14-week training sequence. We recommend that designated staff participants agree on the time and day of the week of the sessions they prefer, and reflect this preference in the [Zoom registration form](#).

For additional information, please consult with the Project ECHO Summary and the Frequently Asked Questions documents which accompanied this message. If you have further questions, kindly contact Dan Heim at LeadingAge NY at dheim@leadingageny.org or 518-867-8866.

Best regards,



James W. Clyne, Jr.
President and CEO
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