Let's talk about Booster Vaccine for Home Health & Hospice Organizations & Project Firstline

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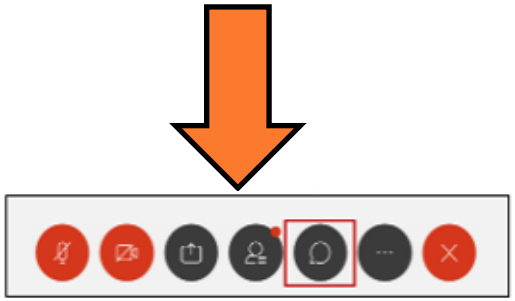
Thank you for your continued efforts to keep your patients and community safe

How To Use Chat Feature

Chat Feature Highly Encouraged



- **In the Send To or To drop-down list, select the recipient of the message**
  - ***Scroll All the Way Down***
  - ***Select "Everyone"***
  - ***Do not select "All Attendees"***
- **Enter your message in the Chat Text Box, then press Enter on your keyboard**

Please Enter in Chat:

- **Your Name**
- **Your Role**
- **Name of Organization**

Project Firstline Goal

Anyone working in healthcare needs a foundational knowledge of infection control and be ready to implement infection control protocols and procedures throughout their workday and at home

Let's Talk About Viruses

- Viruses are able to use cells in living things, including people, to make copies of themselves. It's how viruses spread within a body, and from person to person
- When enough viruses have been able to get into our cells and make copies of themselves, the body recognizes that there's an infection, and our immune system revs up to fight off the virus
- It is the activity of our immune system fighting the virus that makes us feel sick
- Sometimes during the copying the virus picks up a change, if it is able to replicate it can cause a new strain of virus aka mutation aka variant

Virus Strains

Virus Strains (Job Aid) (cdc.gov)

Viruses constantly change through mutation, and new variants, or strains, of a virus are expected to occur over time. The following frequently asked questions and answers can help you understand more about virus strains, including what they mean for infection control and whether you should be doing things differently for them

Questions & Answers

Q: Are strains common with viruses?

Viruses have new strains all the time. That's why there are different strains of influenza every year, and why you can get a cold more than once

Q: How are strains created?

Viruses have genes that carry instructions for making new copies of themselves. Every new copy contains those instructions as well. Sometimes mistakes are made during the copying process. When the instructions are copied wrong, the new viruses come out slightly different, with the mistake included in the instruction genes. Some mistakes make the virus not work anymore, so it's a dead end. When the new virus is still able to function even with the mistake, that's how a new strain is created, since all of the copies from that virus will carry that mistake.

Questions & Answers

Q: What about the new strains of SARS-CoV-2? Do they spread more easily?

Researchers are working hard to understand how these new strains of SARS-CoV-2 are different. Some of the new strains of SARS-CoV-2 allow the virus to spread more easily or make it resistant to treatments or vaccines, so it is even more important to continue using the recommended infection control actions

Q: What can we do to protect ourselves and our patients from the new strains?

Even though new strains of SARS-CoV-2 are around, the basic pieces of the virus are still the same. This means that the recommended infection control actions for healthcare still work and are still needed to help stop the spread of COVID-19. This includes the following

Stopping The Spread

Using PPE: An N95 respirator will prevent you from breathing in virus that's in respiratory droplets, and eye protection keeps respiratory droplets from landing on your eyes. Using gloves and gowns protects you and also keeps you from spreading germs into your work environment

Source control: Masking keeps respiratory droplets out of the air, so the germs in them can't spread to other people or the environment

Physical distance: Maintaining physical distance helps people avoid breathing in each other's respiratory droplets

Cleaning your hands: Soap and water and alcohol-based hand sanitizer break apart the envelope that holds the virus together, so it can't spread

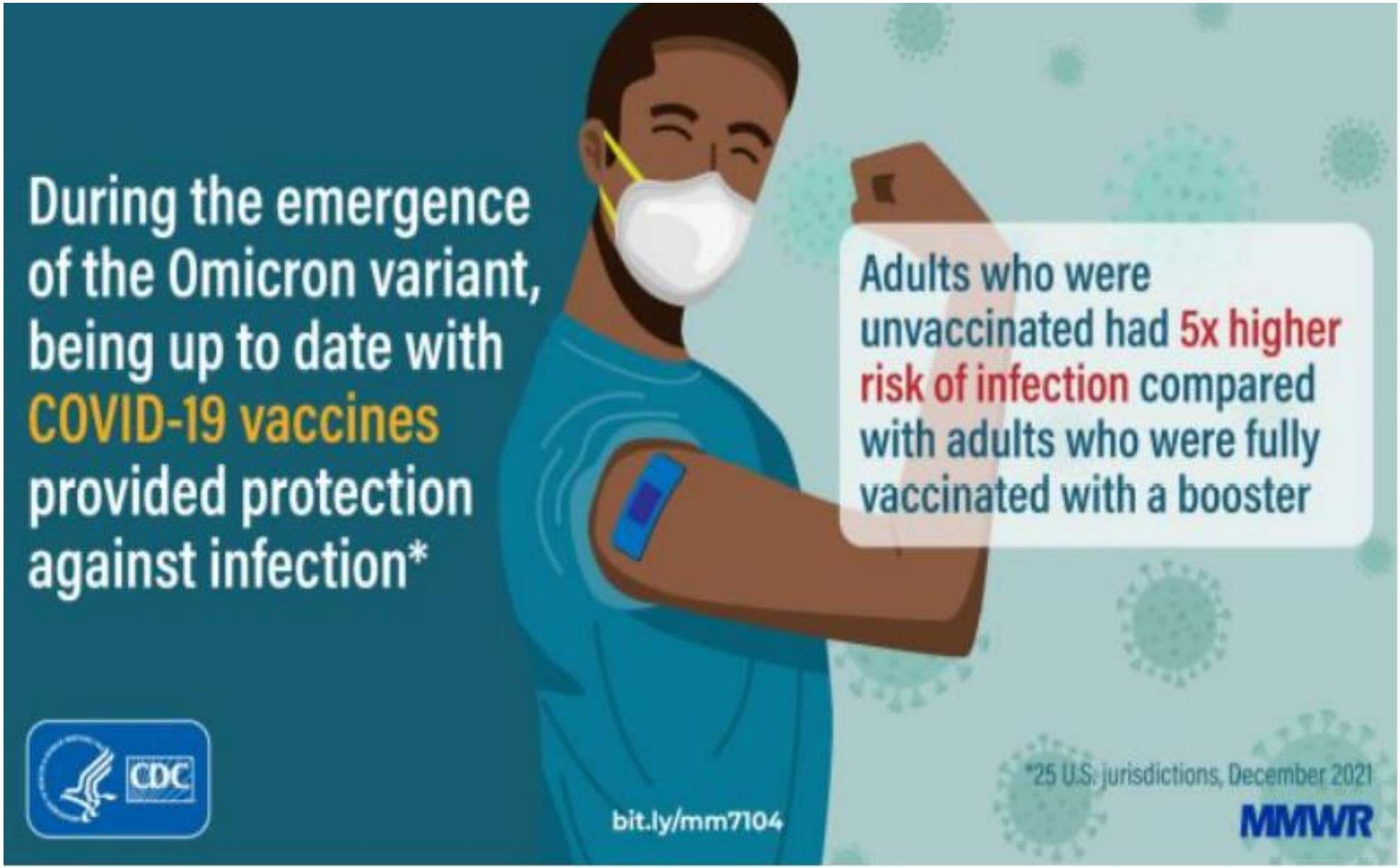
Ventilation: Good indoor ventilation is important for clearing air that might have respiratory droplets in it

Cleaning and disinfection: Disinfecting products on the EPA's list N are known to kill SARS-CoV-2, including the new strains

Why Booster

- Studies show after getting vaccinated against COVID-19, protection against the virus and the ability to prevent infection with variants may decrease over time and due to changes in variants
- Effectiveness of COVID-19 primary series wanes over time especially in people ages 65 years and older
- Omicron variant further emphasizes the importance of vaccination, boosters and prevention efforts
- Early data indicated the booster increase the immune response to provide improved protection from getting COVID-19.

COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shots | CDC, Accessed 1/19/22


During the emergence of the Omicron variant, being up to date with COVID-19 vaccines provided protection against infection*
Adults who were unvaccinated had 5x higher risk of infection compared with adults who were fully vaccinated with a booster
CDC
bit.ly/mm7104
*25 U.S. jurisdictions, December 2021
MMWR

Increasing Booster Vaccine Uptake

Quick Video

COVID Vaccine Fast Facts: Booster Shots | WECANDOTHIS.HHS.GOV

Quick Video

Extra Layer - :30 | WECANDOTHIS.HHS.GOV

Flyer

Protect Your Loved Ones By Getting A COVID-19 Booster (hhs.gov)

Wall Flyer

Protect Your Staff and Residents With COVID-19 Boosters | WECANDOTHIS.HHS.GOV

Communication Resources for Healthcare Providers and Staff

Talking to Recipients about COVID-19 Vaccination | CDC

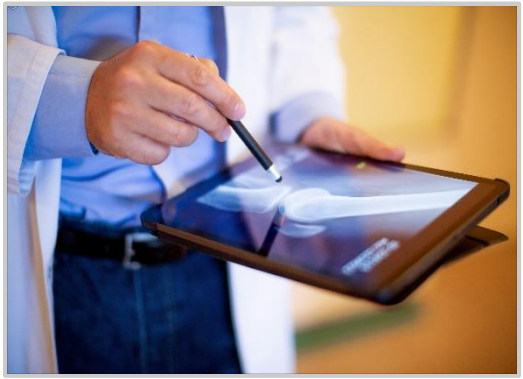
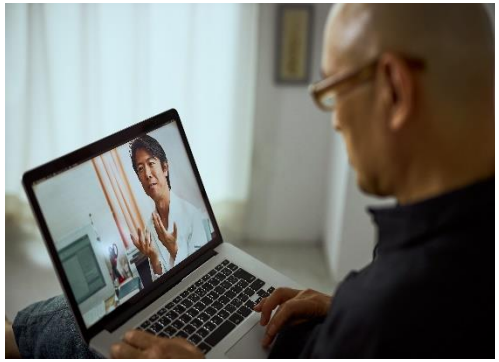
Project Firstline

Project Firstline Trainings

- **Accessible**-no matter what previous training or educational background, be able to understand each video and apply to everyday activities
- **Concise**- to fit around busy schedules, each video lasts approximately 10 – 20 minutes
- **Interactive**- to keep engaged, each video has built-in knowledge checks

- **Access brief video learning modules available on-demand, 24-7, through HCA's online Learning Management System**

MC LMS - Project Firstline

Questions

Comments

Feedback

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IPRO Project Firstline Website:
https://ipro.org/project-firstline