



September 2025 E-Newsletter from Network 11

September is Sepsis Awareness Month!!



Sepsis is a leading cause of hospitalization in dialysis patients with a high risk of mortality. Check out this [Sepsis Factsheet for Dialysis Providers](#) and educate your staff on the risk of sepsis and the importance of early intervention. With respiratory virus season fast approaching, this is a great opportunity to educate your patients on reducing their risk for a respiratory source of sepsis through vaccination. [ASN Project Firstline](#) has a library of resources and on-demand webinars focused on reducing the risk of infections. Would you like further assistance with coaching and resources to improve infection prevention practices and reduce the risk of sepsis? Reach out to our Quality Improvement Director: claire.taylor-schiller@midwestkidneynetwork.org

Influenza Vaccine Season is Here!!

We are calling for all Midwest Kidney Network dialysis facilities to participate in our [Immunization Impact Awards](#). As you are creating those creative patient education bulletin boards to educate and promote the influenza vaccine this fall, remember to take a picture and submit it for the poster contest. Pictures for the poster contest need to be submitted by November 1st for inclusion in voting. See the [flyer](#) for more details on both the poster contest and the tiered recognition program. We are excited to distribute awards of recognition this year, so make sure to get your team involved and participate!



Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Learning Action Network (LAN) Meeting Sept 16th



Calling all dialysis providers in a skilled nursing facility! Please remember to register for our next SNF LAN Meeting on Tuesday, September 16th at 11 am Central/noon Eastern. The topic is vaccinations, and we look forward to another engaging call focused on addressing the unique needs for patients dialyzing in a skilled nursing facility. Pre-registration is required: https://midwestkidneynetwork.org/zoom.us/meeting/register/16mje5caQX-OhOSkUyi_Lg

CONTEST – Vaccine Bulletin Board!!

CALLING ALL CREATIVE MINDS! Nothing gives us fulfillment at the Network like seeing your amazing ways of educating and communicating with your patients. Now that Vaccination season has arrived, we want you to send a picture of your bulletin board to Patrick.Shannon@midwestkidneynetwork.org and our very own CMS Representative Kimberly Jones will select a winner!



Administrators and Managers - Website Membership Agreements

REMINDER!! About a year ago we rolled out a new capability on our website. If you are a new Clinic Manager or Facility Administrator, please sign an agreement via the footer on our website: <https://www.midwestkidneynetwork.org/>. If you are unsure if you signed one, it takes about 90 seconds to create an account and sign. Please reach out to DJ.Johnson@midwestkidneynetwork.org with questions.



ATTENTION Wisconsin Providers: Communicable Disease Webinar this Friday!!

When: Friday, September 5, 7–8 a.m.

This monthly webinar series provides timely updates on public health

issues that are relevant to health care providers and other members of the public health community in Wisconsin.

Topic this month: **Measles cases and infection prevention, with additional updates on penicillin shortage, respiratory viruses, and New World Screwworm.**

Email your questions to Johanna Melton at johanna.melton@dhs.wisconsin.gov using the subject line: "COMMUNICABLE DISEASES PROVIDER WEBINAR," by **2 p.m. Thursday, September 4.**

[Join the webinar](#) Or dial: 669-254-5252, **Webinar ID: 161 710 1187**



**WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
of HEALTH SERVICES**

MDH Project Firstline – NEW Cough Education Bundle

Stay one step ahead this respiratory season in the fight against influenza, COVID-19, and RSV. The newly released MDH PFL Cough Education Bundle is designed to support infection prevention and control in today's busy health care settings. Built for all roles and schedules, this bundle helps strengthen cough etiquette and respiratory hygiene across entire health care teams – making it easier than ever to promote safer and healthier care environments.

Empower yourself and your colleagues with practical, ready-to-use tools that make a real difference. The education bundle features recorded trainings (20–45 minutes), a micro-learn discussion guide, and several printable materials in English and Spanish.

Start using the [MDH Project Firstline Cough Education Bundle \(PDF\)](#) today.



Scan Here

Website: [MDH Project Firstline \(health.mn.gov/projectfirstline\)](https://health.mn.gov/projectfirstline)

PFL mailing list: [Subscribe to MDH Project Firstline Updates](#)

Email: Project.Firstline.MDH@state.mn.us

Social Media: [Facebook](#) | [X](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Instagram](#) | [YouTube](#)

The flyer is titled "Minnesota Department of Health Project Firstline Cough Education Bundle". It provides information about the bundle's purpose and the resources it contains. The text states: "Coughing by itself can be caused by a lot of things, but a cough in combination with congestion—a stuffy nose, runny nose, watery eyes, and/or a nasally voice—is commonly caused by viruses. Viruses like respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) or influenza can spread easily when an infected person talks, breathes, coughs, or otherwise blows air out of their nose or mouth. One person releasing these germs into the air can infect multiple people quickly." The flyer lists the following resources available: Recorded trainings, Interactive & multimedia resources, and English & Spanish language resources. It also lists the MDH Recorded Trainings: "Infection Prevention and Control Actions to Stop the Spread of Viral Respiratory Infections Recorded Training" (20 min), "Source Control Recorded Training" (20 min), and "PPE Part 4: Masks, Respirators, and User Seal Check Recorded Training" (45 min). The CDC Micro-Learn and Multimedia Resources listed are: "Cough and Congestion Micro-Learn (PDF)" (15 min), "Did you Know? Germs Live in the Respiratory System (YouTube)" (15 min), and "Print Materials" including "Germs Live in the Respiratory System (PDF)", "CDC: Ventilation in Healthcare Settings (PDF)", and "CDC: Infection Control Actions for Respiratory Viruses (PDF)". The flyer includes a QR code and a smartphone icon for scanning.