



**Midwest
Kidney Network**



April 2025 E-Newsletter from Network 11

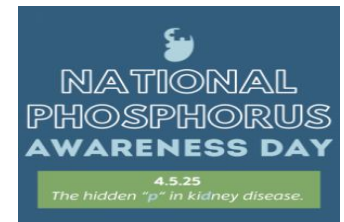
Emergency Preparedness!!



Recently, we have heard from surveyors that facilities are being cited for CMS [Appendix Z](#) Emergency Preparedness Requirements. [This 'special edition' newsletter](#) provides some guidance regarding survey requirements and resources to support emergency preparedness. If your facility experiences an interruption in service, please contact DJ Johnson dj.johnson@midwestkidneynetwork.org at the Network to report the incident. All interruptions in service, regardless of the cause or length of interruption, should be reported both to the Network and [your state survey agency](#).

National Phosphorus Awareness Day – April 5th

National Phosphorus Awareness Day aims to educate the public about the impact of unmanaged phosphorus levels on individuals with advanced chronic kidney disease (CKD), highlighting the importance of managing phosphorus intake. Hyperphosphatemia is defined as a serum phosphorus level higher than 4.5 mg/dL. To reinforce the 4.5 mg/dL marker, AAKP has claimed April 5 the ideal target for National Phosphorus Awareness Day. Here is a [fact sheet](#) to share with your patients.



NKF Peers



NKF PEERS is a program where kidney patients, living donors, or care partners can connect over the phone with a trained mentor. Mentors are people who have been there themselves and can help others by sharing their experiences. Share this link with all your stakeholders:

<https://www.kidney.org/treatment-support/peers>

Vocational Rehab Toolkit

Resources in [this toolkit](#) are designed to assist facilities to successfully assist patients in meeting their vocational rehabilitative goals. Resources are divided into two sections and include those that will be helpful to the professional, and those that will be helpful to patients. Materials in this toolkit can be copied and distributed freely as needed. If you have questions, please reach out to: Rena.Nelson@MidwestKidneyNetwork.org.



Facility Specific Data Reports

April marks the end of the Network's contract year. This is the final month to demonstrate the efforts and successes made by facilities to CMS. Please review the facility-specific reports, particularly the vaccination rates, that will be sent by Kristen Ward by April 22nd and correct any errors by the end of the month. The [vaccination dashboards](#) in EQRS can be helpful tools in resolving discrepancies. Feel free to reach out to the Network with any questions.

New Links



- From the National Forum of ESRD Networks – [1st edition patient newsletter](#)
- Look for archived versions of our monthly E-newsletter – [MKN archives](#)



Midwest Kidney Network

Partnering to improve kidney care

MDH Project Firstline Training Opportunities

View Now: MDH Project Firstline Infographics

Where is the risk? Knowing where germs hide is essential for safer patient/client/resident care. Use the MDH PFL infographics to refresh your knowledge. Visit our website, at [MDH Project Firstline \(health.mn.gov/projectfirstline\)](https://www.health.mn.gov/projectfirstline) for other free materials and trainings.



Germs Live on the Skin (PDF):

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/facilities/patientsafety/infectioncontrol/pfl/training/fsskin.pdf>

- Los microbios viven en la piel (PDF) (Spanish): <https://www.cdc.gov/project-firstline/media/pdfs/es/Atencion-Medica-La-Piel-ES-508.pdf>

Germs Live in the Blood (PDF):

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/facilities/patientsafety/infectioncontrol/pfl/training/fsblood.pdf>

- Los microbios pueden vivir en la sangre (PDF) (Spanish): <https://www.cdc.gov/project-firstline/media/pdfs/es/Atencion-Medica-La-Sangre-ES-508.pdf>

Germs Live in Water and on Wet Surfaces (PDF):

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/facilities/patientsafety/infectioncontrol/pfl/training/fswet.pdf>

- Los microbios viven en el agua y en superficies húmedas (PDF) (Spanish): <https://www.cdc.gov/project-firstline/media/pdfs/es/Atencion-Medica-Superficies-Humedas-ES-508.pdf>

Germs Can Live on Dry Surfaces (PDF):

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/facilities/patientsafety/infectioncontrol/pfl/training/fsdry.pdf>

- Los microbios pueden vivir en superficies secas (PDF) (Spanish): <https://www.cdc.gov/project-firstline/media/pdfs/es/Atencion-Medica-Superficies-Secas-ES-508.pdf>

Germs Can Live on Devices (PDF):

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/facilities/patientsafety/infectioncontrol/pfl/training/fsdevices.pdf>

- Los microbios pueden vivir en los dispositivos (PDF) (Spanish): <https://www.cdc.gov/project-firstline/media/pdfs/es/Atencion-Medica-Dispositivos-ES-508.pdf>