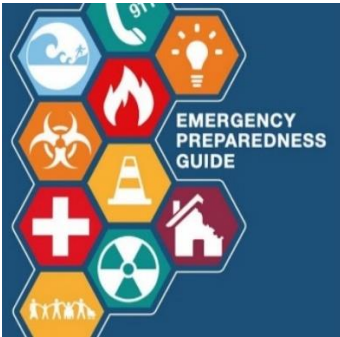




February 2025 E-Newsletter from Network 11

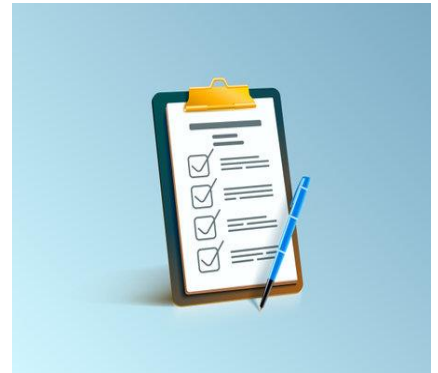
FREE Emergency Preparedness Resource



Our hearts go out to the thousands of residents, including dialysis patients and providers, affected by the recent natural disasters. In moments like these, we recognize the critical importance of being prepared to ensure the safety and well-being of patients and healthcare teams alike. To support you during this challenging time, **Renal Healthcare Association (RHA)** is offering free access to the Emergency Preparedness chapter from the *Core Curriculum for Renal Healthcare Administrators®*. This chapter provides practical tools and guidance to help leaders like you navigate crises with confidence. [Download the Free Chapter Here](#)

CMS 2744/Annual Facility Survey Due March 31st

Now is the time to start working on your facility's CMS 2744/Annual Facility Survey for 2024! Every dialysis and kidney transplant provider in the country is required to submit annual patient census data, treatment, and staffing totals via the CMS 2744 in EQRS. Please note, **some** dialysis organizations are submitting CMS 2744 forms at the corporate level, and you may not need to complete the CMS 2744 at the facility level. **If you are unsure about your organization's CMS 2744 submission plan or if you have questions, please reach Aletha at (651) 644-5839 for Michigan facilities or Alli at (651) 644-2911 for MN, ND, SD, WI facilities.**



Dialysis Community Joint Training Session for WI, ND, & SD – March 6th



The Kidney Community Emergency Response (KCER) Program invites you to attend an informative training session focused on bringing together the state's disaster response stakeholders, dialysis providers, End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Network, and KCER for a discussion on the unique needs of dialysis patients and the facilities that treat them. This event is open to all Wisconsin, North Dakota, and South Dakota dialysis providers and professionals in the fields of emergency management, public health (ESF-8), healthcare coalitions, and additional federal, state, and local stakeholders responsible for disaster response and recovery. [Click here to register.](#)

Big Ask Big Give FREE Virtual Event – Thu Feb 27th

In this free program, you'll learn effective tools and tips for finding a living kidney donor. You'll also hear living donor recipients and living donors share their stories. Patients and families will receive education, tools and tips to help them write and share their story to find a living kidney donor.

The intended audience is dialysis professionals, patients on the kidney transplant waitlist, and those considering being a living donor.

Register here: www.kidney.org/offices/nkf-serving-minnesota





Midwest Kidney Network

Partnering to improve kidney care

Register for MDH Project Firstline Training – Feb 19th

Join MDH Project Firstline for a 30-minute Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection training session on February 19, 2025, at 1 p.m. CT. Germs are everywhere in the health care environment. Regular cleaning and disinfection in high-traffic areas and on high-touch surfaces help stop the spread of germs. Register for the training:

[Project Firstline Training Session: Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection](#)

View Now: Infection Prevention & Control Actions to Stop the Spread of Viral Respiratory Infections

Stay one step ahead in the fight against flu, COVID-19, and RSV. Project Firstline has the information and tools you need to protect yourself, your coworkers, and your patients this respiratory virus season.

Register for the MDH Project Firstline recorded training:

[Infection Prevention and Control Actions to Stop the Spread of Viral Respiratory Infections \(23 minutes\)](#)

Printable Resources: Infection Prevention and Control of Respiratory Viruses

Infection Control for Respiratory Viruses
Use the following infection control measures to prevent and slow the spread of respiratory infections in your facility.

- Use of well-fitting masks or respirators, that cover a person's mouth and nose, can prevent the spread of germs when people are breathing, talking, sneezing, or coughing.
- Encourage everyone in your facility to get recommended vaccinations. Vaccination is a safe and effective strategy for reducing disease spread and staff absenteeism.
- Practice physical distancing, particularly in shared spaces such as waiting rooms, and implement screening and triage procedures. Use signs as visual reminders for patients, implement rapid screening, and separate symptomatic patients as soon as possible.
- Practice respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette and encourage others to do the same. Provide masks, tissues, and no touch receptacles for tissue disposal at facility entrances, triage areas, and waiting rooms.
- Clean your hands regularly with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer or soap and water. Share key messages and reminders within your facility by using CDC's Clean Hands, Count Resources.
- Clean and disinfect regularly. Lobby areas, cafeterias, and waiting rooms are all high-traffic spaces where germs can spread. It's also important to disinfect reusable devices and not reuse disposable items.
- Check that the air handling in your facility is functioning as it should. Make sure air vents aren't blocked, and consult with facilities management to ensure the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning, or HVAC, system is working efficiently for proper ventilation.

For more information on infection control recommendations for healthcare settings, visit: <https://bit.ly/2O1UX8M>

GERMS CAN LIVE IN THE RESPIRATORY SYSTEM.

WHERE IS THE RISK?
Know where germs live to stop spread and protect patients

Germs That Can Live in the Respiratory System

- *Pneumomonas*
- *Staphylococcus aureus* (staph, including MRSA) (tip of the nose)
- Viruses, like influenza and SARS-CoV-2

Healthcare Tasks Involving the Respiratory System

- Oral care (e.g., toothbrushing)
- CPAP use for sleep apnea
- Intubation
- Giving nebulized medication

Infection Control Actions to Reduce Risk

- Hand hygiene
- Use of personal protective equipment (respirators, eye protection)
- Source control (masking)
- Cleaning and disinfection
- Respiratory hygiene/cough etiquette
- Ventilation

• When an infected person talks, breathes, sneezes, or coughs, they produce respiratory droplets that could spread germs.

• Germs are more likely to spread in places with poor ventilation or lots of people.

• Germs in the nose and mouth can be spread to the skin and hands when people touch their faces, which can then spread to surfaces or other people.

To keep each other safe and healthy, this facility is asking everyone to please wear a mask.

Masks can help prevent the spread of respiratory infections.

We have the power to stop infections. Together.

- [Infection Control for Respiratory Viruses \(PDF\)](#)
- [Germs can live in the respiratory system \(PDF\)](#)
- [CDC Project Firstline Print Materials, Graphics and More](#)
Includes a variety of masking signs in English and Spanish.

Coming Soon: New Recorded Project Firstline Table Talk Sessions

The recent training series on “We’ve Got You Covered | PPE Series” will be posted soon to the [MDH Project Firstline Training and Resources](#) webpage. Remember to complete the feedback survey after completing a live or recorded training to receive your proof of attendance documentation.

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

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

Checkout out our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/MidwestKidneyNetwork>



Midwest Kidney Network

Partnering to improve kidney care

Phosphorus Binders in the Bundle – Feb 26th



Join Renal Healthcare Association (RHA) for an interactive discussion on the implementation of phosphate binders in the dialysis bundle. This exclusive meetup is an opportunity to exchange insights, discuss challenges, and share strategies for integrating phosphate binders effectively. Bring your questions, experiences, and expertise as we navigate this important change together!

[Register Here](#)

Two resources are also available on our website:

<https://www.midwestkidneynetwork.org/regulatory-information/quality-incentive-program>

Exploring Transplant and Living Donation – CEs for RN, SW, RD, & PCT

Health Literacy Media is partnering with the University of Michigan Transplant Center once again to bring the Explore Transplant and Living Donation Dialysis Provider Virtual Training back to your area. Since its conception over 16 years ago this training began as a HRSA funded quality improvement initiative for dialysis professionals. As a health communications nonprofit, HLM continues to partner with transplant centers across the US to offer CEUs to nurses, technicians, dietitians, and social workers who complete the training to improve kidney transplant and living donation knowledge and resources to use with ESKD patients at chairside. **Registration:** <https://bit.ly/UofMI2025>.

SAVE THE DATE

University of Michigan Transplant Center Presents

EXPLORE TRANSPLANT & LIVING DONATION DIALYSIS PROVIDER TRAINING 2-Day VIRTUAL TRAINING

Objective: Enhance your knowledge and skills educating patients about kidney transplant

Thursday, February 27 and Friday, February 28, 2025

Training details:

🕒 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. each day
Attendance is expected both days

💰 \$35 includes registration fee, CE credits for nurses, social workers, dietitians and technicians

To register or for more information:

📄 Visit: <https://bit.ly/UofMI2025>

📞 Contact: Stacy Brand or Michele Cromer at transplantoutreach@med.umich.edu or (734) 936 - 7093

Content on health literacy, living donation strategies and case studies included!



It's Not Too Late to Vaccinate!!



With many areas of the country experiencing increased cases of respiratory viruses, now is the time to educate patients that it's not too late to vaccinate! Revisit with patients who may have initially declined vaccinations, as well as patients new to the clinic since vaccines were offered in the fall. Please look at your vaccination rates on your Network report and compare to your own internal rate to check for accuracy. Facilities only get credit for doses captured correctly in EQRS. Visit the Network website for the following helpful resources: [Vaccine Clinic Checklist](#), [Pneumococcal Vaccination Job Aid](#), and [It's Not Too Late To Vaccinate Patient Education](#). Need help with data discrepancies? Reach out for help! Email: claire.taylor-schiller@midwestkidneynetwork.org or 651-644-9877 Ext 113

2025 Recommended Treatment Goals

The 2025 Recommended Treatment Goals have been finalized! We have posted them to our website please see link below. Let us know if you have any questions:

<https://www.midwestkidneynetwork.org/quality-improvement/recommended-treatment-goals>



Checkout out our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/MidwestKidneyNetwork>