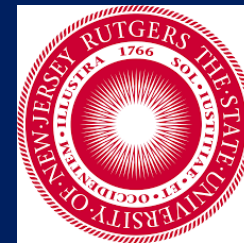


Public Health Partnership with Academia to address SARS-CoV-2 in five Long Term Care Facilities in Newark, New Jersey.

Reza Peymani MD, Marsha McGowan MPH, Berlyne Vilcant MHA, Peter Wenger MD, Manisha Gurumurthy MD MPH, Nisha Jani PhD, Eric Asencio, Austin Togba James, Pauline Thomas MD
Rutgers NJMS, Preventive Medicine Residency Program
reza.peymani@rutgers.edu



BACKGROUND

- As SARS-CoV-2 overran the US in 2020, Long Term Care Facilities (LTCFs) were hit early and hard. New Jersey(NJ), April 2022:

Sars-CoV-2	NJ LTCF residents	NJ overall
Cumulative Incidence per 10,000	2600	200
Case Fatality	18%	1.6%

- The Newark Department of Health and Community Wellness (NDHCW) attempted aggressive engagement with active surveillance for Covid illness in residents and staff of the five LTCFs in Newark: but lacked staff and resources.
- It was determined that LTCs lacked adequate PPE, staff, pandemic infection control protocols and accurate data collection system.

METHODS

- In June 2020 NDHCW requested help from Rutgers New Jersey Medical School (NJMS) Preventive Medicine Residency Program.
- Team established with volunteer students from NJMS and Rutgers School of Public Health (SPH) Purpose:
 - Enable public health communication with the five LTCFs
 - Address their Covid-19 pandemic related needs
 - Ensure active surveillance (case counting)
- Two volunteer students were assigned to each LTC

Student activities:

- Review daily clinical line-listings of Covid-19 cases (positive PCR) in residents and staff
- Recording numbers of cases in residents and staff
- Reviewing LTCF's pandemic plans
- Checking adherence to NJ state policies and supplies:
 - PPE
 - Point of care testing
 - Vaccination
- Report to the team through email and weekly virtual team meetings

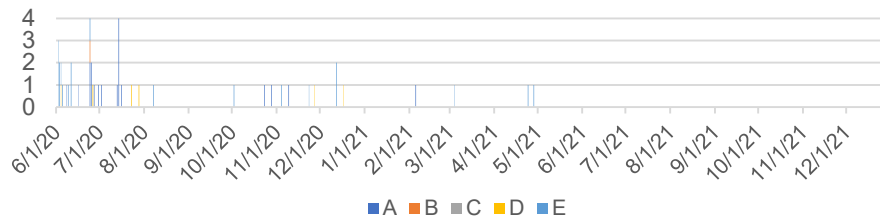
A Preventive Medicine Resident was the team leader (in partnership with the NDHCW Health Officer). He would prepare weekly report on Covid-19 cases and vaccination status (added in December 2020) for the executives at NDHCW.

Example of weekly team report to Newark Department of Health and Community Wellness Covid-19 Surveillance of Five Long Term Care Facilities in City of Newark, New Jersey, June 1, 2020- March 21, 2022

Covid-19 Vaccination Surveillance (December 2020-March 2022)

LTCFs	Resident			Staff		
	Census	Primary Series	Boosted	Census	Primary Series	Boosted
A	62	62 (100%)	56 (90%)	148	148 (100%)	55 (37%)
B	243	232 (95%)	212 (87%)	270	270 (100%)	124 (46%)
C	95	93 (98%)	89 (93%)	105	102 (97%)	101 (96%)
D	339	296 (87%)	234 (69%)	338	323 (96%)	168 (50%)
E	78	77 (99%)	44 (57%)	114	100 (88%)	43 (38%)

Part 1: 5 Long Term care Facilities in Newark: Number of Residents tested Covid-19 Positive by date of Specimen Collection, June 1, 2020 – December 31, 2021



CONCLUSIONS

- Enhanced communication helped LTCFs to:
 - Develop pandemic guidelines
 - Report accurate morbidity and mortality data
 - Comply with the updated state/CDC guidelines
 - Employ appropriate staff to provide optimal infection control and patient care
- Strengthened partnership between Newark Department of Health and Community Wellness and LTCFs.
- Leveraging volunteer services from preventive medicine and public health faculty, residents and students enabled a strong public health response and students received practical public health training.

Outreach and customized interprofessional collaborations and interventions by local public health institutions are extremely valuable and effective in optimal public health achievements.