

Positive Behavioral Control Checklist for Long-Term Care Facility Staff Interacting with Residents with Cognitive and Emotional Challenges

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The Staff Wellness-Crisis Intervention Work Group of the Long-Term Care Facility Task Force has developed a Positive Behavioral Control Checklist for Long-Term Care facility staff interacting with residents to support positive outcomes for staff and residents. Considerations for long-term care leadership and staff include:

- Be prepared to spend additional time as needed with persons either before, during, or after vaccination or testing to facilitate emotional support and the most positive experience.
- Carefully select a familiar and trusted person who will present the information about the procedures.
- Consider the time of day for discussing and administering vaccines or tests for residents with dementia: **“Sundowning”** may occur in the late afternoon or early evening causing confusion, emotional volatility and apprehension.
- Use a comforting and familiar space for vaccination and testing.
- Consider having a family member present when COVID visitor restrictions are lifted.
- Use positive behavioral controls when approaching, testing and vaccinating persons with severe cognitive and emotional problems due to, e.g., dementia, stroke, brain injury, intellectual disability or psychosis.
- Understand that simple things like tone of voice, body posture, quick movements, noise, disrupted routines, and disrupted environments can induce challenging behaviors in these persons.
- Realize and avoid these behaviors as they increase suffering and increase staff burden.