# Article information:

Impact of COVID-19 on Infection Control Practices in Skilled Nursing Facilities - PMC  
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8863548/>

# Article summary:

1. Infection control practices in skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) have been a critical priority during COVID-19.

2. SNF infection management staff agreed that there is increased awareness of infection control practices due to COVID-19, as well as greater education and monitoring of ongoing infection control practices.

3. Enhanced infection control practices have contributed to decreases in influenza outbreaks, but continued mask-wearing and increased screening and monitoring may lead to staff burnout.

# Article rating:

Appears moderately imbalanced: The article provides some useful information, but is missing several important points or pieces of evidence that would be required to present the discussed topics in a balanced and reliable way. You are encouraged to seek a more balanced perspective on the presented issues by exploring the provided research topics and looking at different information sources.

# Article analysis:

The article "Impact of COVID-19 on Infection Control Practices in Skilled Nursing Facilities" provides a qualitative analysis of infection control practices in skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) during the COVID-19 pandemic. The study aimed to identify which infection control practices are likely to remain in place in the future and how they may change. The authors conducted 26 semi-structured interviews with SNF administrators, directors, assistant directors of nursing, infection preventionists, and Minimum Data Set coordinators from 13 SNFs across the country.

The article presents a balanced view of the impact of COVID-19 on infection control practices in SNFs. The authors acknowledge that enhanced infection control practices have contributed to decreases in influenza outbreaks but also note potential negative consequences such as staff burnout. However, there are some limitations to the study that should be considered.

Firstly, the sample size is relatively small, with only 13 SNFs included in the study. This limits the generalizability of the findings to other SNFs across the country. Additionally, all participants were from SNFs that had experienced COVID-19 outbreaks, which may bias their perceptions towards more stringent infection control measures.

Secondly, while the authors acknowledge that increased screening and monitoring have contributed to enhanced infection control practices, they do not explore potential downsides such as increased costs or decreased quality of care due to staff burnout.

Thirdly, while the authors note that mask-wearing mandates for anyone inside a SNF are nearly universal since the pandemic, they do not explore potential counterarguments against this practice or consider whether it may be necessary or effective in all situations.

Finally, it is worth noting that this study was funded by Sanofi Pasteur. While there is no evidence of promotional content or bias towards Sanofi Pasteur products in this article, it is important to consider potential conflicts of interest when interpreting research funded by pharmaceutical companies.

In conclusion, while this article provides valuable insights into how COVID-19 has impacted infection control practices in SNFs and what changes may persist into the future, there are limitations to its findings that should be considered. Further research with larger sample sizes and more diverse populations would help provide a more comprehensive understanding of how COVID-19 has impacted infection control practices in SNFs.

# Topics for further research:

* Potential downsides of increased screening and monitoring in skilled nursing facilities during COVID-19
* Staff burnout in skilled nursing facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic
* Arguments against universal mask-wearing mandates in skilled nursing facilities during COVID-19
* Quality of care in skilled nursing facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic
* Impact of COVID-19 on influenza outbreaks in skilled nursing facilities
* Conflicts of interest in research funded by pharmaceutical companies in the healthcare industry

# Report location:

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