

DAY OF ACTION: Dec. 9th -- Urge Gov. Hochul to Eliminate the HERDS Survey!

1. Call the Governor at **518-474-8390** to urge for the elimination of the daily HERDS survey.
 - When you call, *press "1"* to leave a message.

Talking points to inform your phone call/voice message are below. Feel free to use any that resonate with you, or share your own examples:

- Say your name, area of the state and explain that you work in a nursing home or adult care facility.
- I am calling to urge Gov. Hochul's administration to eliminate the daily HERDS survey for nursing homes and adult care facilities and use COVID data reported elsewhere to inform state policy and public health responses.
- Since March of 2020, we have had to complete a daily survey on the Health Emergency Response Data System, or HERDS. The survey was started at the beginning of the pandemic to inform COVID-19 pandemic emergency response and data collection.
- Thankfully, over four years later, we are in a very different place with COVID-19. The state and federal public health emergencies have expired, and CDC has changed its guidance to treat COVID-19 like other respiratory viruses.
- Importantly, the HERDS survey data is no longer useful. The questions are outdated, unclear, and ask for irrelevant information.

For example: there are several questions about the receipt of COVID vaccinations, but the questions will not tell you if the person is up-to-date with current 2024 vaccinations.

- Even worse, the HERDS Survey is duplicative of other existing reporting.
 - The CDC's National Healthcare Safety Network collects data from nursing homes on a weekly basis, using clear and updated questions, regarding COVID cases, hospitalizations, deaths and COVID vaccinations. The state should be relying on this already available data.
 - Both nursing homes and adult care facilities must report cases of COVID-19 to public health authorities in addition to reporting them on HERDS surveys.
 - NHs report to the State Department of Health Bureau of Healthcare Associated infections

- ACFs report to the Local Health Department.
- Why can't the state use the information already reported?
- As a final note, COVID vaccines should be treated like other vaccines which are reported by providers to the State seasonally. A daily HERDS survey is not necessary to gather this information.
- For these reasons and more, I urge you to eliminate the daily HERDS survey for nursing homes and adult care facilities - and use COVID data reported elsewhere to inform state policy and public health responses. I would appreciate a call back to discuss my concerns.

Thank you for your advocacy on this important day of action! Please let us know if you encounter any challenges or questions.

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