

# FALL RESPIRATORY PREPAREDNESS: A Networking and Community of Practice Event

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## DESCRIPTION

Humber River Health’s (HRH) Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) Hub, in collaboration with Delmanor Prince Edward Retirement Home, hosted an in-person networking and Community of Practice event on fall respiratory season preparedness. This collaborative event brought together key stakeholders to share insights and strengthen partnerships between HRH IPAC Hub and retirement homes. The session demonstrated HRH IPAC Hub’s commitment to building knowledge, enhancing capacity, and supporting outbreak response in retirement homes. By facilitating this collaborative session, HRH IPAC Hub aims to support retirement homes in their preparation to respond to respiratory virus outbreaks during the fall season.

## OBJECTIVE

To facilitate collaboration and knowledge sharing on fall respiratory preparedness with retirement home IPAC Leads.

## ACTIONS TAKEN

The initiatives of the networking event to enhance fall respiratory preparedness in retirement homes include:

- Presentations from the Retirement Homes Regulatory Authority on inspection compliance, and the Ontario Retirement Communities Association on collaborative support for retirement homes
- Presentation on fall preparedness strategies and best practices by HRH IPAC Hub
- Scenario-based exercises for application of discussed strategies
- Provided a platform for IPAC Leads to engage, share insights, and strengthen partnerships
- Conducted post-event evaluation

This multi-faceted approach fostered knowledge exchange, practical exercises, and networking opportunities for IPAC Leads.

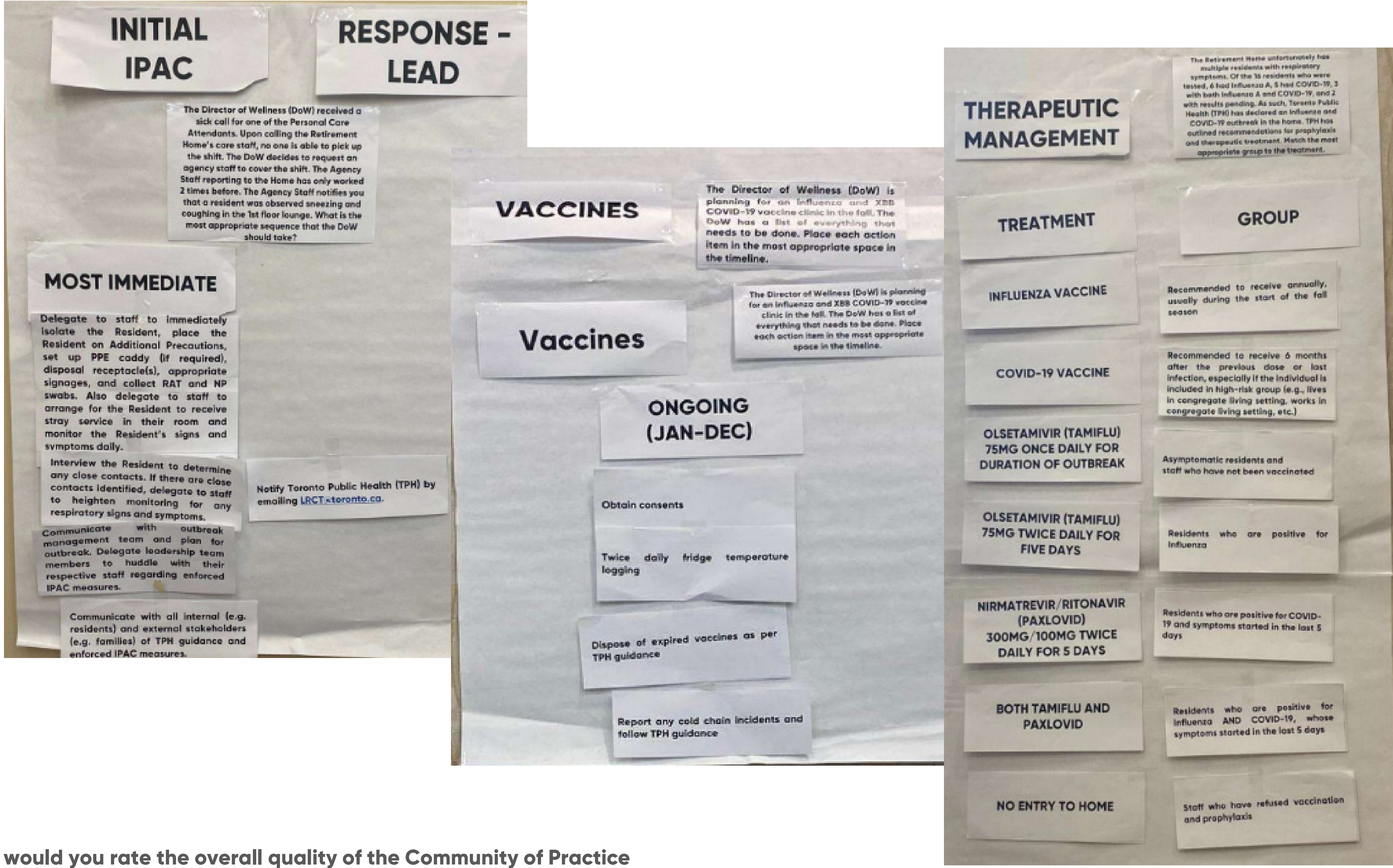


Figure 1. Scenario-Based Outbreak Management Exercises: Small groups of participants engaged in scenario-based activities designed to apply fall preparedness strategies to realistic outbreak situations. The exercises focused on initial IPAC actions during outbreak detection, vaccination strategies for residents and staff, and therapeutic management approaches. These exercises aimed to reinforce best practices in outbreak management.

How would you rate the overall quality of the Community of Practice and Networking Session?

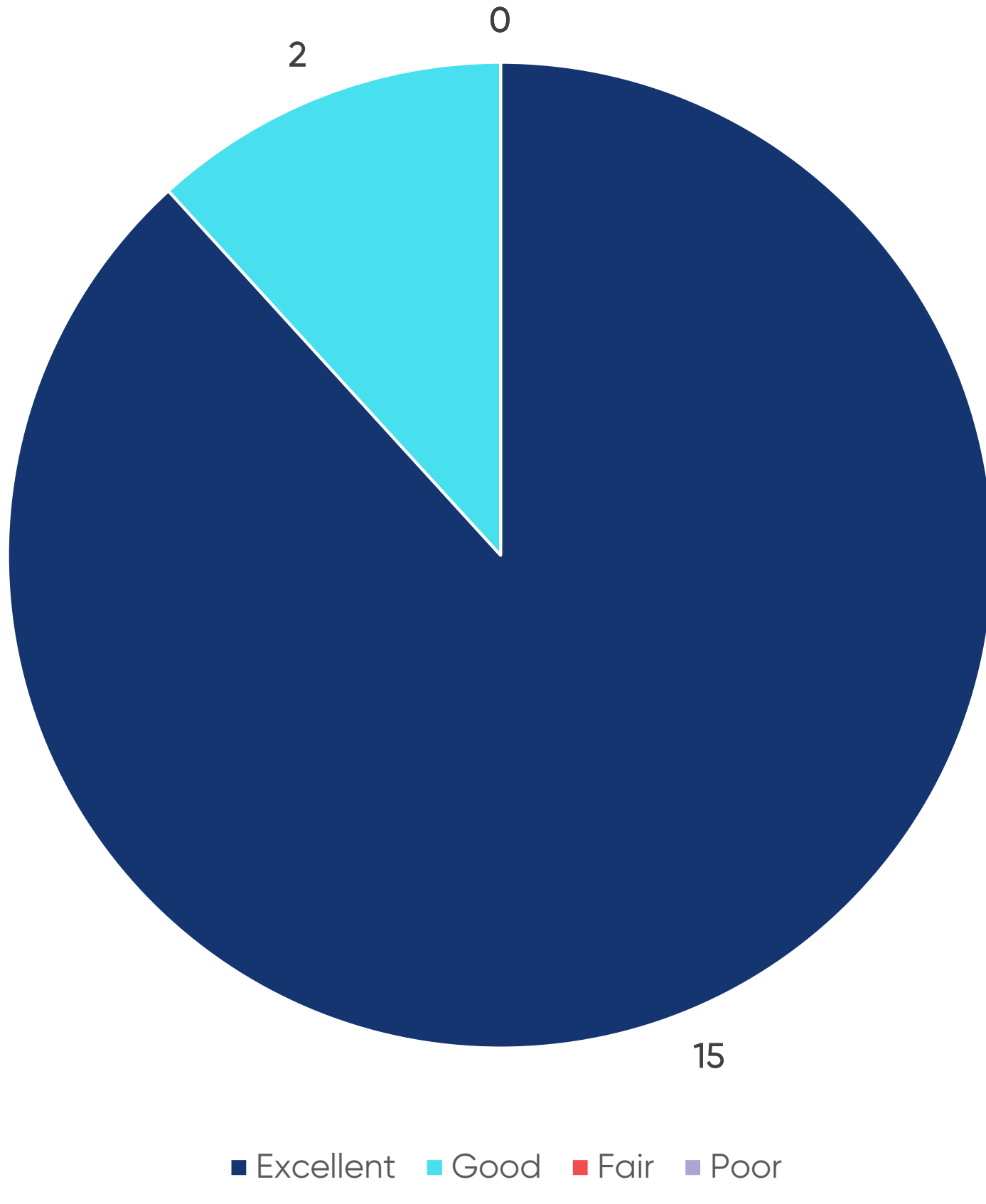


Figure 2. Participant ratings of the fall respiratory season preparedness Community of Practice and Networking Session Quality.

How Satisfied are you with the Community of Practice and Networking Session overall?

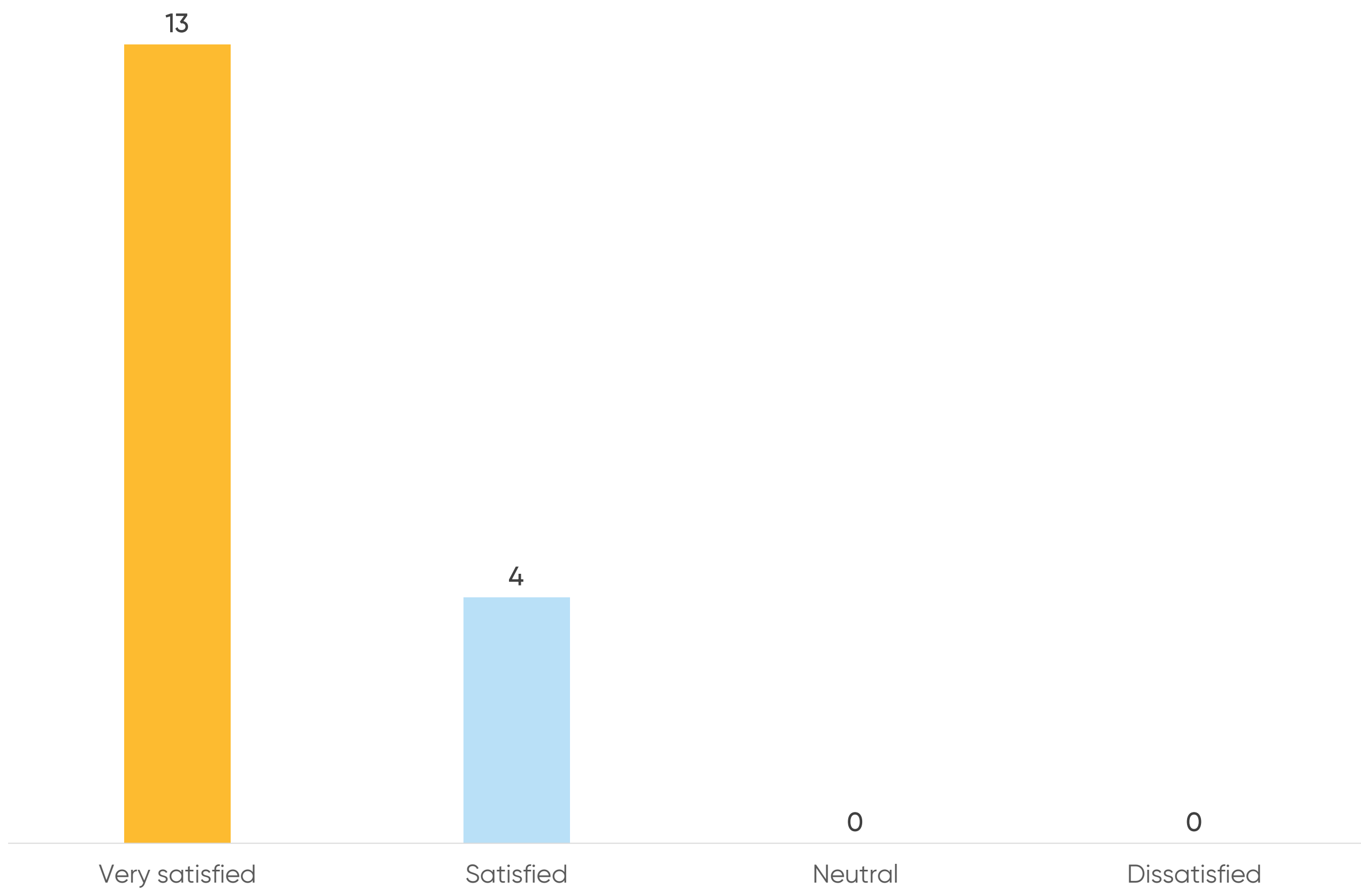


Figure 3. Participant Satisfaction with fall respiratory season preparedness Community of Practice and Networking Session.



Figure 4. HRH IPAC Hub presentation on fall preparedness strategies and best practices.

## SUMMARY OF RESULTS

The networking and community practice session for retirement homes enhanced preparedness and partnerships. Post-evaluation revealed:

- 88% of participants rated the event as “excellent” and 12% as “good”
- 88% found the information “very useful”
- 82% rated the presentations as “very clear and engaging”
- 76% were “very satisfied” with networking opportunities and 24% were “satisfied”

Feedback suggested increasing session frequency and incorporating more interactive activities. Participants valued learning on IPAC measures and industry practices.

## LESSONS LEARNED

- Collaborative learning improves fall preparedness
- Multi-stakeholder involvement and practical exercises improve applied skills
- Networking reinforces partnerships
- Varied learning formats enrich engagement among participants

