
INDIANA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

State Health Commissioner's Order #CO-20-04
Cooperation of Long-Term Care Facilities with Indiana National Guard

WHEREAS, on March 6, 2020, Governor Eric J. Holcomb issued Executive Order 20-02, which declared that a public health emergency exists throughout the State of Indiana as a result of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19); which has been effective since that date and most currently updated in Executive Order 20-44;

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 to be a global pandemic and, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a national emergency with respect to this dangerous virus;

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a respiratory illness that can be spread from person to person. COVID-19 is thought to be spread mainly between people who are in close contact and prolonged contact with one another (about 6 feet) through respiratory droplets produced by an infected individual. COVID-19 may also be spread by touching a surface object that has virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or eyes. COVID-19 is spreading easily and sustainably in the community;

WHEREAS, COVID-19 spreads easily in congregate living facilities such as long-term care facilities, which the Indiana State Department of Health regulates pursuant to [IC 16-28](#);

WHEREAS, there are increasing cases of COVID-19 in long-term care facilities, including long-term care facility residents and staff;

WHEREAS, under the authority granted to the Indiana State Department of Health in [IC 16-19-3-9](#) to "do what is reasonable and necessary for the prevention and suppression of disease"; and Executive Order 20-02 which requires health care providers to cooperate with the Indiana State Department of Health in its response to the declared public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, Governor Holcomb is directing the Indiana National Guard where needed to assist the Indiana State Department of Health and the State's long-term care facilities in their response to the COVID-19 public health emergencies.

THEREFORE, I, Kristina Box, MD, FACOG, State Health Commissioner, do hereby order that:

1. All nursing homes (comprehensive care facilities) and residential care facilities are directed to cooperate fully with the Indiana National Guard as it assists the Indiana State Department of Health in responding to COVID-19 cases affecting long-term care facilities.
2. The cooperation required under this Order includes, without limitation, allowing Indiana National Guard personnel to enter long-term care facilities and following directions from such personnel as authorized by the Indiana State Department of Health.

SO ORDERED.

October 21, 2020

Kristina M. Box, MD, FACOG
State Health Commissioner
Indiana State Department of Health

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