



**Indiana**  
Department  
of  
**Health**

## **Long-term Care** **NEWSLETTER**

**LTC Newsletter 2021-10**

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**February 17, 2021**

**LTC Updates:**

- **Reporting County Positivity Rates - CLARIFICATION**

### **Reporting County Positivity Rates – CLARIFICATION**

The Indiana Department of Health would like to clarify what source facilities should be using to determine county positivity for visitation and for testing. In our guidance on visitation, provided in the LTC Newsletter on 2/15/2021, we asked facilities to use the CDC 7-day county positivity rate when making decisions on visitation. This guidance is what is published in IDOH [Visitation Guidelines for Long-term Care Facilities](#) (page 6) and is unchanged from previous guidance. Questions arose on this, however, as many facilities were using the CMS website, which reports 14-day averages to determine testing frequency. We understand having different sources to determine county positivity can be confusing. To simplify things we are recommending facilities use the [CDC COVID Data Tracker](#) to determine county positivity for both visitation and testing decisions. We realize this is a change for some facilities and have clarified that this is acceptable by CMS. The original CMS guidance used 14-day positivity rates secondary to limited community testing at the time. Now that testing is more widespread and vaccines are being administered, a 7-day average using the CDC site is acceptable for both testing and visitation.

Summary: IDOH would like for facilities to use the CDC data tracker for visitation and testing requirements.

For surveying purposes, the facility should assure a log of county positivity rates and information related to the data source used (i.e., CDC) is available.

[Positivity Rates – CDC COVID Data Tracker](#)