



Indiana
Department
of
Health

Long-term Care
NEWSLETTER

LTC Newsletter 2023-27
Dec. 21, 2023

LTC Update:

- **Safe Viewing of the 2024 Total Solar Eclipse**
- **Free Virtual Courses for Skilled Nursing Personnel**
- **Project Firstline Informational Webinar**

Safe Viewing of the 2024 Total Solar Eclipse

On Monday, April 8, 2024, a total solar eclipse will pass over Indiana, creating darkness as the Earth, the Moon, and the Sun form a straight line. This unique event is expected to result in several counties experiencing darkness for an excess of three minutes beginning at about 2 p.m. on the west side of the state. Early planning is critical to preparing your community for such a rare event and will help to ensure an ideal eclipse experience for everyone.

When viewing a total solar eclipse, safety is the priority. Education on total solar eclipse eye safety is imperative to prevent injuries to eclipse viewers. It is never safe to look directly at the sun during an eclipse without specialized eye protection. Doing so may cause short- or long-term severe eye damage, including distorted or a loss of vision.

- Looking at the sun through a camera lens, telescope, or any optical device without proper solar filters is **not** safe and will cause immediate serious eye injury.
- Do **not** use eclipse glasses while looking through a camera lens, telescope, or any optical device.
- Approved eclipse glasses are the only safe way to view the solar eclipse. Avoid unapproved or counterfeit eclipse glasses due to safety ineffectiveness. Regular sunglasses are not safe for viewing the partial phases of a total solar eclipse.

For more information:

- The Indiana Optometric Association (IOA) produced a [flyer](#) to address eye safety during a total solar eclipse.
- A list of approved eclipse-related [resources](#) can be found at the American Astronomical Society.
- The Indiana Department of Health produced a [flyer](#) for public safety planning.
- Visit the Indiana Department of Homeland Security's [website](#) for more information.

Free Virtual Courses for Skilled Nursing Personnel

The Indiana Department of Health and the University of Indianapolis Center for Aging and Community are offering free virtual courses for skilled nursing facility personnel in two subject areas relevant to the long-term care setting in January 2024. The courses are:

- [Abuse and Neglect Prevention in Long Term Care](#) – Taught by Becky Bartle, MSN, RN, HFA, topics will include human dignity for all persons, recognizing abuse and neglect, causes of abuse and neglect of residents, training for staff that prevents stressors, abuse by other residents, abuse by visitors/family members, preventing abuse and neglect and intervening, reporting abuse and neglect, and mechanisms to administratively monitor for potential abuse.
- [Emergency and Disaster Management in Long Term Care](#) – Cotaught by Kara Cecil, DrPH and Bill Reckert, MSM, topics will include the four phases of emergency management, review of CMS Risk Assessment Template and Self-Assessment Checklist, tabletop exercises, improving your Emergency Action Plan (EAP), emergency communications, the importance of documentation, and training in a high turnover field.

Each course offers long-term care specific examples. Courses will be offered at various times from January 2024 through May 2025. CEUs are available through the Indiana Department of Health for administrators and social workers.

For more information and to register, click on the corresponding course name above. These courses are funded through the Indiana Department of Health using Civil Money Penalty funds.

If you have any questions, please contact Leah Jones at the University of Indianapolis Center for Aging & Community, Jonesl001@uindy.edu.

Project Firstline Informational Webinar

The University of Indianapolis Center for Aging and Community invites all CNA programs to join an informational session titled: "Project Firstline Infection Control Ready to Use Implementation Plan Review."

This is for you if you:

- Have not attended a Project Firstline webinar yet
- Need a refresher of what Project Firstline is
- Are unsure of what Project Firstline is
- Want resources and references
- Need a sample implementation plan

Project Firstline can:

1. Provide an overview of Project Firstline and this healthcare initiative offered by the Indiana Department of Health and the University of Indianapolis Center for Aging and Community
2. Assist in streamlining your teaching instruction
3. Provide an opportunity to learn and participate in a dynamic approach of health equity in the understanding of infection control
4. Provide a ready-to-use infection control sample implementation plan

The webinar will take place on **Jan. 16, 2024, from 1-2 p.m. ET via Zoom**. You can register [here](#). One CEU will be available for administrators and social workers.

For more information, contact Stacie Clay, project coordinator, at clays@uindy.edu or 317-791-5934.