



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

## Long-term Care NEWSLETTER

**LTC Newsletter 2021-32**

**June 30, 2021**

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### **LTC Update:**

- Emergency Orders Reissuing Temporary Blanket Waivers
  - Comprehensive Care
  - Residential Care
- **"Why Vaccination Matters"** from IDOH Medical Director's Desk

### **Emergency Orders Reissuing Temporary Blanket Waivers**

This Order and the waivers granted are effective July 1, 2021 and shall expire at the end of the day on August 15, 2021.

[Emergency Order Reissuing Temporary Blanket Waivers for Comprehensive Care Facilities](#)

[Emergency Order Reissuing Temporary Blanket Waivers for Residential Care Facilities](#)

### **"Why Vaccination Matters" – IDOH Medical Director's Desk**

COVID-19 has impacted all of us. Many lives have been lost – with far more experiencing severe illness – and even those who were never sick have experienced social isolation and hardship. Because several safe and effective vaccines are now widely available, life is slowly returning to normal.

Approximately half of all eligible individuals nationwide are fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Anyone who remains unvaccinated is still vulnerable to getting sick from COVID-19. Even if those individuals are lucky enough to only experience mild symptoms, they can still spread it to others who might not be as lucky. In addition to protecting themselves, vaccination can prevent

vaccinated individuals from spreading the virus, which serves to protect family, friends, co-workers and the residents we all work so hard to take care of.

Increasing vaccination rates among long-term care staff is critical to our work to protect residents who are the most at risk for severe complications of COVID-19. We encourage all Hoosiers, including long-term care staff, to get the facts about the vaccine from trusted sources, such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Indiana Department of Health ([www.ourshot.in.gov](http://www.ourshot.in.gov)).

For the vast majority of people, vaccine side effects are minimal, impacting only a few out of the more than 150 million people who are now fully vaccinated in the United States. Even with these known side effects, the complications related to the disease are more frequent and more severe. We know that the risks from COVID-19 far outweigh any risk from the vaccine.

There are a number of myths about the vaccines and their safety for pregnant women spreading on social media. Medical research says mRNA vaccines are safe for pregnant women; there are no data that vaccines cause infertility or menstrual irregularities. Other misconceptions include that the vaccine has a microchip in it, that it changes your DNA or that it will give you COVID-19. None of that information is true. You should also get vaccinated, even if you've already had COVID-19, because it's not known how long that natural immunity will last. It is always best to research legitimate scientific resources to verify any information related to the vaccines instead of relying on testimonials on social media.

Please be a champion to motivate others in your facilities to get vaccinated. When we all come together, we can beat the virus.

Shireesha Vuppalanchi, MD  
Long-term Care - Indiana Department of Health

- [When You've Been Fully Vaccinated | CDC](#)
- [CDC COVID Data Tracker](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccines While Pregnant or Breastfeeding \(cdc.gov\)](#)
- [Sperm Parameters Before and After COVID-19 mRNA Vaccination | Urology | JAMA | JAMA Network](#)
- [https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa2104983?query=featured\\_home](https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa2104983?query=featured_home)
- <https://www.acog.org/covid-19>
- <https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccine/for-patients.html#mythbusters>
- [Risk/Benefit assessment of thrombotic thrombocytopenic events after Janssen COVID-19 vaccines \(cdc.gov\)](#)

- [Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee June 10, 2021 Meeting Presentation - COVID-19 Vaccine Safety Updates \(fda.gov\)](#)