



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

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

**LTC Newsletter 2021-39**

**August 13, 2021**

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### **LTC Update:**

- **Long-term Care Facilities Guidelines in Response to COVID-19 Vaccination—Updated 8.6.21**
- **LTC Facility COVID-19 Data Submission Guidelines—REMINDER**
- **Tuberculosis Prevention – Program Advisory Letters – Comprehensive Care & Residential Care Facilities**
- **Vaccine Hesitancy Letter – Dr. Vuppalanchi, LTC Medical Director**

### **Long-term Care Facilities Guidelines in Response to COVID-19 Vaccination—Updated 8.6.21**

Infection prevention source control for fully vaccinated personnel (HCP) and residents was updated in the spring of 2021 to allow for times when masks could be removed. The CDC now recommends with the highly transmissible Delta variant that all vaccinated and unvaccinated HCP, residents, and visitors wear masks indoors.

- Complete changes and updated guidelines are available: [Long-term Care Facilities Guidelines in Response to COVID-19 Vaccination](#)

NOTE: The COVID-19 LTC Facility Infection Control Guidance SOP is being updated with the changes above.

### **LTC Facility COVID-19 Data Submission Guidelines—REMINDER**

This is a reminder for the COVID-19 testing results reporting guidance. Please review [LTC Facility COVID-19 Data Submission Guidelines](#).

## **Tuberculosis Prevention – Program Advisory Letters – Comprehensive Care & Residential Care Facilities**

The program advisory letter sets out the expectations for Indiana licensed comprehensive care and residential care facilities effective August 12, 2021.

[Tuberculosis Prevention Requirements for Comprehensive Care Facilities](#)

[Tuberculosis Prevention Requirements for Residential Care Facilities](#)

[Tuberculosis Assessment and Testing of Long-term Care Residents](#)

## **Vaccine Hesitancy Letter – Dr. Vuppalanchi, LTC Medical Director**

Are you skeptical about the COVID-19 vaccines? Are you concerned about potential side effects or how quickly they were produced? Maybe you are not high risk for severe disease, and you don't like shots. We understand. Would you change your mind based any of the following facts?

- By getting vaccinated you are decreasing risk of infecting someone you deeply care about – a family member, a close friend, or your neighbor – especially someone at higher risk who has an immunocompromised condition, such as cancer or diabetes.
- By getting vaccinated, you are less likely to get COVID-19 and even less likely to transmit to someone else who potentially is at high risk.
- Your risk of developing severe COVID-19 is greatly reduced. Side effects are minimal to mild for most people. Serious risks are rare. COVID-19 can cause far more severe and long-lasting complications.
- The vaccines were developed in exact same way as any other vaccine without skipping any steps. The only difference is COVID-19 vaccine doses were produced while studies were being done to boost the supply. If the vaccine was unsafe or ineffective, that vaccine would have been discarded.
- More than 163 million people in the United States are fully vaccinated. Several people in your own social bubble have probably taken the vaccine and are doing fine.
- The new Delta variant is twice as contagious as the Alpha strain, which was already more transmissible than the original virus.
- By being unvaccinated, you help allow variants to develop. New, more serious and more contagious strains of the virus are created as the virus spreads and mutates.
- By getting vaccinated, if you are a close contact of someone with COVID-19 you won't have to quarantine for 14 days and potentially lose wages. If you're fully vaccinated, you do not need to quarantine, unless you develop symptoms.

[COVID-19 Vaccine: It's our shot, Hoosiers Benefits of Vaccination Flyer](#)

