



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

## Long-term Care NEWSLETTER

**LTC Newsletter 2023-06**

**March 16, 2023**

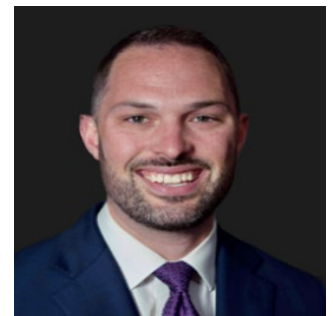
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### **LTC Update:**

- **New Assistant Commissioner Announcement**
- **Upcoming Medicaid Eligibility Changes**
- **Project Firstline Infection Control Educational Resources**
- **Educational Opportunities Through Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Project**
- **New CDC Pre-Implementation Tool for Enhanced Barrier Precautions**
- **Ivy Tech CNA and QMA Testing Plan for 2023**

### **New Assistant Commissioner Announcement**

Jordan Stover has been selected as the new assistant commissioner (AC) for Consumer Services and Health Care Regulation. Jordan comes to IDOH from the Indiana Attorney General's Office Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, where he has worked since 2019 investigating and litigating regulatory and statutory violations by providers. He has held multiple roles in state and local government, including as a deputy prosecutor in Marion County, and legal counsel and the legislative liaison for the Indiana State Police. He assumed the AC position on Feb. 20.



### **Upcoming Medicaid Eligibility Changes**

IDOH Partners: Your help is needed to protect vulnerable Hoosiers who are covered by Medicaid.

As many as 500,000 Hoosiers could be impacted by upcoming eligibility changes required by federal law. Your organizations and programs may serve some of these individuals. The changes are the result of the recently passed federal spending bill, which ends the pandemic-related eligibility provisions on March 31, 2023. This means regular determinations for coverage will begin again, and actions to adjust, reduce, or eliminate coverage will be allowed beginning in April 2023.



The Indiana Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) has been sending communications to current Medicaid recipients explaining the actions they need to take to maintain their eligibility, which include updating their contact information and responding to ongoing verification requests when there is a change in circumstances.

We ask that you also help spread the word so that Hoosiers do not suddenly lose coverage.

FSSA has provided flyers, social media toolkits, and other resources to explain the change and next steps [here](#). A poster with a QR code that can help individuals quickly update their contact information can be found [here](#) and is available in multiple languages. Please post flyers and share this information through your communications channels, including social media, to remind clients to submit their information promptly and to alert the programs that assist Hoosiers with the Medicaid redetermination process.

We appreciate your help as we work to ensure that Hoosiers do not experience a gap in benefits.

Kris Box, M.D., FACOG  
State Health Commissioner

### **Project Firstline Infection Control Educational Resources**

The University of Indianapolis CAC and Probari are teaming up to provide long-term care staff with up-to-date infection control education with [Project Firstline](#). This program offers educational resources about infection prevention and control in a variety of formats to meet the diverse learning needs and preferences of the healthcare workforce. The resources are designed using adult learning expertise, educational best practices, CDC recommendations and the science that informs them.

All long-term staff are encouraged to sign up for weekly text messages with links to this material. Text "infection" to 317-779-3225 to receive weekly infection control resources at your fingertips.

## Educational Opportunities Through Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Project

Enrollment is now OPEN for the new [Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program \(GWEP\) ECHO](#) hosted by the IUPUI ECHO Center in partnership with the [University of Southern Indiana GWEP](#) and [Teepa Snow's Positive Approach to Care](#).

This program is intended for direct service providers in skilled nursing facilities, anyone who refers to nursing facilities, home care and hospice workers, and health facility administrators. This is a limited six-session series occurring between 3-4 p.m. EDT (2-3 p.m. CDT) on the following dates via Zoom:

- March 14: Delirium, Anxiety, Depression, & Dementia
- April 14: The Art of Person-Centered Care: Appreciating the Importance of Permission
- April 21: End of Life Dementia with Pain, Movement, and Discomfort
- April 25: Engaging in Living: Responding to the Rhythms of People Living with Dementia
- May 2: Challenging Care Situations: Intimate Care with Dementia
- May 5: Trauma Informed Care for Patients & Staff

\*topics are subject to change

The primary goal of ECHO is to build capacity to best respond to the needs of diverse patients across the state of Indiana, increase access to care, and improve health outcomes while reducing disparities. Join the GWEP ECHO network of healthcare professionals committed to improving and enhancing health outcomes for older adults. Each ECHO session will consist of didactic presentations that cover timely topics and best practices in geriatric care. Real, de-identified case-based studies will be used to educate and support clinical decision-making.

Please [click here to complete the online registration](#).

For questions or more information, please visit the [USI GWEP ECHO webpage](#) or contact program coordinator, Caroline Kryder-Reid at [ckryderr@iu.edu](mailto:ckryderr@iu.edu).

## New CDC Pre-Implementation Tool for Enhanced Barrier Precautions

The CDC has developed a [NEW tool](#) designed to be used prior to implementation of enhanced barrier precautions (EBP) in your facility (either a unit, wing, or entire facility) as a guide for developing a successful plan for the implementation of EBP during high-contact resident care activities. It is intended for use in skilled nursing facilities/nursing homes.

It is best practice to follow the [CDC guidance on EBP](#), but regulatory assessment on this guidance remains unchanged.

This tool can be customized to meet facility-specific needs. EBP can be implemented in a manner that works best for your facility. While implementation of EBP for all residents who meet criteria is the goal, this may not initially be feasible for your facility. If, during the development of your implementation plan, challenges arise for facility-wide implementation, you may choose to implement EBP on a unit or wing first, preferably one where most residents would meet criteria for the use of EBP (e.g., residents with indwelling medical devices, wounds, or known MDRO infection or colonization). HCP can reduce personal protective equipment (PPE) consumption by bundling multiple high-contact resident care activities (e.g., changing briefs, assisting with toileting, bathing/showering, and providing hygiene could be bundled with changing linens).

[Pre-Implementation Tool—Enhanced Barrier Precautions \(EBP\) \(cdc.gov\)](#)

### **Ivy Tech CNA and QMA Testing Plan for 2023**

Ivy Tech's Statewide Testing Services has announced its plan for CNA and QMA testing for 2023. The plan includes the transition of the written portion of the CNA exam to computer-based testing, more community testing days at Ivy Tech locations, and transition to an online testing application system. Please read [this document](#) for details.