

SEPTEMBER 2020

PULSE

A look at what keeps ISDH ticking

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

◆ Contact tracing works slow the spread	2
◆ Get your flu shot	3
◆ SECC campaign begins	4
◆ Ramsey leads students back to school safely	4
◆ September is a time we're reminded to prepare for emergencies	5
◆ Fairbanks study begins third round	6
◆ Staffing updates	6
◆ Accreditation journey nears finish line	7



FUN FACT

The average daily caloric intake has increased by approximately 600 since the 1970s, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Succeeding in a season of change

Happy fall, everyone!

Each year, September ushers in a change of seasons, where cooler temperatures and brightly colored leaves complement the ever-present pumpkin spice offerings and give us a new perspective on the world.



Kris Box, MD, FACOG

That change seems more poignant this year as we continue to battle the COVID-19 pandemic and brace for what flu season holds.

The last eight months have been a season of change for all of us, both personally and professionally. I know that many of us have dealt with anxiety and loss, myself included, as we've navigated unsettling times where nothing seems normal.

Some days, I'm struck by how everything changed seemingly overnight. It's hard to remember the end of February when we were prepar-

ing for the possibility that COVID-19 would land on our doorstep here at work, yet we were still going about our personal lives as normal.

No matter what your experience has been during this pandemic, know that feelings of uncertainty, anxiety and even sadness are normal. We've all had days when we aren't our best selves, and we need to show each other grace, because this is far from over.

I'm incredibly proud of our team and all we've accomplished. I can't count the number of times that we have been asked to do the impossible, and yet you have made it happen. It's fitting that we are resuming the Pulse newsletter in September, which is Preparedness Month, because our emergency preparedness training and execution have laid the foundation for all that we've accomplished in this pandemic.

I'm also proud of the work that's continued on non-pandemic priorities to keep us on track for things like

reducing infant mortality. One of those is our OB navigator program, which has continued to move forward despite the need to shift to virtual encounters. We are on track to roll out the program, which will be called My Healthy Baby, to 22 counties by the end of October. That's two more than we originally planned, and it's exciting to see more than 600 women enter the program.

Much has changed these last few months, and more change is ahead. We continue to learn more about COVID-19 every day, and we can't be sure how flu season will impact us. But one thing that remains consistent is the incredible dedication of our public health workforce. I know without a doubt that we will meet whatever challenges come our way.

In the meantime, take a walk. Breathe in the fresh air. Take mental health breaks. And know that we are all in this together.

**Yours in health,
Kris**

Lovchik retires; Liu to lead new lab division

The state Department of Health will say goodbye to Dr. Judy Lovchik at the end of September. Dr. Lovchik has been at the Indiana Department of Health 13 years, but her retirement comes after decades of work in public

laboratories.

Lovchik's interest in science dates to her early days as a nun and teacher of math and science. She launched her public health laboratory career in 1983 at the University of Maryland, where she

worked in the Pediatric Infectious Disease Laboratory. She served on the faculty at the university's School of Medicine for 20 years, conducting research on sexually-

► Continue to LAB, page 7



**Indiana
Department
of
Health**

Mission:

*To promote, protect,
and improve the health
and safety of all Hoosiers.*

Spotlight

Contact tracers offer facts with compassion

There's unexpected emotional reward for contact tracers, who play a vital role in helping slow the spread of COVID-19 in Indiana.

Kayla Gatt helped a COVID-19 positive man living in a camp for people experiencing homelessness. While the man was skeptical of someone on the other end of his cell phone trying to help, he wasn't able to self-isolate.

Problem-solver Gatt connected him to [211](#), which referred him to a place that offers short-term living during isolation, and he had shelter before his first weekly follow-up call. When that tracer realized the man needed food, too, she helped him learn about free local food drives. By the third weekly call, the client was appreciative and pleasantly surprised that tracers had been so helpful.

There's also heartache for tracers.

"It's a really hard job to do on so many levels," said team lead Cathy Roland, a nurse practitioner. "It's dealing with human beings at their worst with this fearful illness."

Some tracers have broken the news of a positive test. Other times, they hear bad news.

"It happens often that calls are made when someone's dying, or they just died," said supervisor Ann Zinyemba, noting how emotionally wrenching that is for her workers. "I sometimes pull them into a Zoom room and talk them down. I've had grown men and women crying."

Interviewing Hoosiers who test positive

This remote effort works to contact people who test positive for COVID-19 so they can stay home and lower the risk of viral spread to others. When a contact tracer calls, he or she asks a series of questions about where the person lives, with whom they have been in contact within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes, and other questions about their health. Sometimes it's easy to reach the individual because their case information is readily available. When vital information — full name, address, phone number(s) or date of birth to confirm identity — is missing, research is next. With complete information on someone, the call center immediately texts contact phone numbers with a message and IDOH number to call. The center also makes follow-up calls and sends a letter to the person's home to get in touch.

Those who answer the text or call are asked to complete a phone interview with one of about 1,000 contact tracers. The goal is to find out where a person went and things someone did during the infectious period. That is 10 days



Ready to serve

Leah Raider, the new contact tracing program manager, learned well from her parents.

Her dad is a primary care physician and has been the Pulaski County health officer "for as long as I can remember." Her mom worked in Riley Hospital for Children's lab. "They taught my brothers and me the importance of serving others."

Contact tracing and the team, she said, "are very dynamic, which makes it an exciting opportunity. I'm looking forward to helping keep Indiana ahead of the COVID-19 curve."



**Leah
Raider**

She studied political science and international relations at the University of Indianapolis, where she earned her bachelor's degree, and followed that with a master of public affairs from IUPUI.

Raider has worked at the State Budget Agency, IU Health and most recently as chief financial officer for the Department of Child Services (DCS).

"My time at IU Health cemented how a focus on respect for people and continuous improvement can help sustain the work of an organization. I took that to my work at DCS, and I saw this position as a great way to continue fulfilling that passion."

She and her husband, Eric, have been married 14 years and live on Indy's southeast side with their three boys. The oldest, who's 9, is vigorously petitioning for a dog and/or cat.

starting from 48 hours before symptoms began, or 48 hours before the test was taken if the person has no symptoms. The confidential calls take from about 25 minutes to more than an hour at times, partly depending on how much close contact information there is.

Individuals also receive guidance about self-isolation and are connected with additional services if they are concerned about being able to safely self-isolate. Those with questions about underlying conditions, medicine or isolation time are connected to a medical escalation unit for expert recommendations.

If contact tracers can't reach a person, the local health department tries other ways to connect, including in-person visits.

Finding close contacts

The contact tracing program also reaches out to close contacts and monitors them. These people are at higher risk of getting the virus because they were close enough for long enough to someone who has tested positive.

Until their quarantine period ends, close contacts are monitored daily through a short survey. It can be completed

► Continue to **CONTACT**, page 3

Prepare for flu season

Flu is upon us, and we are asking all employees to help in reducing the spread of influenza in the workplace, among our families and in our communities.

The best way to do this is to get vaccinated, according to Immunizations Director Dave McCormick. "Everyone 6 months of age and older should receive a flu vaccine before the end of October to be properly protected from seasonal influenza and other respiratory illnesses," McCormick said.

The flu is different from the everyday cold. It can last two weeks or more and cause serious complications such as pneumonia.

Every year, flu affects millions of people nationwide. It causes between 140,000 and 710,000 hospitalizations, 12,000 to 56,000 deaths and costs billions to the economy. Proper etiquette for coughs and sneezes, frequent handwashing and other good health behaviors can help, but getting vaccinated is the best way to protect against the flu.

Seasonal influenza vaccines are a safe, effective way to protect yourself from the flu and other respiratory illnesses. CVS will offer flu vaccines to IDOH employees (details at right).

To find another location to get a flu shot, visit <https://vaccinefinder.org/>. Immunizations are at the core of building a healthier workforce, healthier families and healthier communities. Thank you for supporting this effort.

For more information on influenza and vaccination, visit <https://www.in.gov/isdh/25462.htm>.

2020 Staff Flu Clinic Information

- 2N: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Oct. 5
Registration Link: [Click here to register](#)
- Labs: 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Oct. 15
Registration Link: [Click here to register](#)
- Labs: 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Oct. 19
Registration Link: [Click here to register](#)

Employees will be required to register for a specific appointment time. During registration, they can select the vaccines (up to 4 max) they would like to receive. The registration link will be active until 24 hours before the scheduled start time of the clinic. Vaccines to be offered: Influenza, pneumonia, shingles, Tdap, hepatitis B, hepatitis A, HPV, meningitis, chicken pox and MMR. All vaccines are free with state insurance.

If you don't have insurance, the cost of the influenza vaccine is \$39.99 for those younger than 65 and \$69.99 for those 65 and older. Other costs are: Pneumonia: Prevnar \$247.99, Pneumovax \$138.99; shingles: \$186.95; Tdap: \$75.59 hepatitis B: \$95.59; hepatitis A: \$119.99; MMR: \$104.99

You will be able to choose up to four vaccines to receive during your time slot. Shingrix is not listed as an option on the link, but we are confirming that it will be available.

- Employees will have the option of entering their insurance information online, or they can "skip" that step and bring your insurance card day of.
- Employees are required to download and view the vaccine information statements before finalizing a time slot.

You will not receive a confirmation email, so please write down the time slot you registered for on your calendar.

► CONTACT, continued from page 2

by text, email or a phone call with a tracer. If a call is made, the name of the positive person to whom they were exposed to is kept confidential.

From May 11 to Sept. 17, tracers interviewed more than 55,000 people with a positive test, or 70% of that group. More than 72,000 close contacts were reached and monitored, or 56.4% of those people.

Indiana's Sept. 21 daily positivity rate was 3.9 percent. That number helped guide Gov. Eric J. Holcomb's decision to move to Stage 5 of the Back on Track plan starting Sept. 26.

Please 'Answer the Call'

Contact tracing is so important to containing the spread of COVID-19 that the Indiana Department of Health launched a media campaign this month to help Hoosiers recognize that the call or text they get is legitimate and encourage them to reply. "Answer the Call" is running on radio, social media and TV statewide.

While the job of the contact tracer is to give information,

they also listen.

"A call," said contact tracer Jillian Rafalski, "has the opportunity to give someone comfort in a time when they really need it."

One of the positive individuals she talked with was an older, lonely woman who was in the hospital. She'd lost her husband, daughter and grandson in the previous few years. A nurse couldn't even keep her company due to exposure time limits. "I was nearly in tears listening to her story," Rafalski said.

"She was so thankful to speak with someone and just explain how she was feeling. She kept saying how she is praying for me and everyone who is doing what we do. Even in her condition, she was thinking of other people.

"Contact tracers can't do much to make people feel physically better, but we sure can help patients deal with one of the worst parts of COVID-19: the feeling of being alone."

¿Tome el examen?
Conteste el texto.

EL RASTREO DE CONTACTOS
NOS PROTEGE A TODOS



Stop COVID.
Answer the call.



CONTACT TRACING
PROTECTS US ALL



Indiana
Department
of
Health

Ramsey leads back-to-school initiatives

As chief nurse consultant, Lorrie Ramsey is the liaison between the Indiana Department of Health and school nurses, building and district administrators, local health departments, and others. She offers education, encouragement, guidance, training, and updates about COVID-19 and other health concerns at schools.

It's a great fit for someone who for the last eight years led a Community Health Network team of 250-plus nursing staff responsible for school nurse clinic services. They helped 10 school districts plus several charter schools in Hamilton, Johnson and Marion counties.

After three months with the state Department of Health, she said, "My greatest accomplishment has been establishing solid relationships with school nurses, school leaders and others across our state. Credibility is so important in this role, and I believe I've succeeded in relating to those really struggling to put the puzzle together in navigating return to school during a pandemic.

"More than 90 percent of Indiana schools have at least some in-person education available, and I feel that is due to the teamwork of several amazing groups."

That work includes an informative weekly webinar primarily for school nurses and anyone working with the schools who wants to learn more about helping schools succeed during these stressful times.

How'd she end up in a field that's such an obvious match?

"Growing up, I was always drawn to helping others. My great-grandmother raised me, and she had frequent health



Lorrie Ramsey

issues, so I was always a caregiver. When it was time to choose my career path, nursing seemed the logical choice."

The registered nurse loves learning more about her field; her three degrees, and 35 years in the field, attest to that. She's also taught the subject as an adjunct faculty member at University of Indianapolis (an alma mater). Ramsey provided clinical education and support to nursing students during community-based care rotations.

She finds the department's atmosphere supportive. "I work with great people who really care about the Hoosiers they serve. I'm learning so much about the public sector and how even the little things I do count in the eyes of others. In every conversation, every interaction, I am representing the state health commissioner, the governor and our state in ensuring school health is a priority during the pandemic.

"Everyone is so friendly and helpful. The opportunity I have at the IDOH is an amazing one — and one I consider a gift. I appreciate the opportunity to serve and work alongside all of you."

Learn more

[Read specific Back-to-School Resources information](#) for parents and caregivers, school administrators and nurses, plus find out what's in a school contact tracing toolkit and answers to the most frequently asked school questions. This page also has information about childcare and dozens of other topics.

Department of Health kicks off SECC campaign

This year's State Employees' Community Campaign (SECC) will look different due to COVID-19. This year's emphasis will be put on e-Pledges and one-time donations. E-Pledges can be for as little as \$1 a pay per charity and one-time donations as little as \$5 per charity.

Instructions were emailed to all staff on Sept. 17 about how to sign up for e-pledge with the fillable pledge form. If you opt to use the fillable form, please send the form, along with any donation, to Kim Rief. The paperwork needs to be received before Nov. 20.

The SECC Committee realizes that a one-time donation of \$5 might be impossible for some. If anyone would like to make a one-time donation of less than \$5, we will combine those one-time donations into one contribution. All col-

lected donations of less than \$5 will go to the agency's charity. Donations may be mailed (interoffice or via the U.S. Postal Service to Tami Barrett, Becky Haywood or Kim Rief).

The Indiana Department of Health sponsored Week 1 of the SECC earlier this month.

Our charity of choice for SECC is Indianapolis Urban League (IUL). IUL was founded in the fall of 1965 as a not-for-profit, nonpartisan, interracial community-based social service/civil rights organization.

IUL's mission is to assist African-Americans, other minorities and disadvantaged individuals in achieving social and economic equality.



**Indianapolis
Urban League**

This year the SECC Committee is planning a "Who Is That Baby" Contest. This is how the contest will work:

- Now through Oct. 2: Anyone who wishes to submit a baby picture may e-mail it to Kim Rief at krief@isdh.in.gov.
- From Oct. 19 through Oct. 30: Pictures will be posted on the Nerve Center along with a list of the names of participants. Staff will try to match the pictures and names.

A \$2 voting fee must accompany the voting sheet with choice of charity.

The person with the most correct answers will be the winner, and all the proceeds will go to that person's chosen charity. All votes must be submitted by Oct. 30.

DISASTERS DON'T WAIT. MAKE YOUR PLAN TODAY.

National Preparedness Month (NPM) is recognized each September to promote family and community disaster planning now and throughout the year. As our nation continues to respond to COVID-19, there is no better time to be involved this September.

"We preach partnerships in Emergency Preparedness, and this response — the way internal and external partners (department of health divisions, partner state agencies) supported our response — is proof that partnerships are vital to any response," said Emergency Preparedness Director Megan Lytle. "Without these partnerships, both internal to IDOH and external among a multitude of partner state agencies, we would not have been able to achieve a fraction of what we did with them.

"The more we are engaged outside of a response — know each other, what we all bring to the table and how we can assist, have trained and exercised together — the sooner we can get to providing the assistance during the mission for whatever the response may be."

The 2020 NPM theme is: "Disasters Don't Wait. Make Your Plan Today."



1. **Make a plan.** Talk to your friends and family about how you will communicate before, during, and after a disaster. Make sure to update your plan based on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations due to the coronavirus.
2. **Build a kit.** Gather supplies that will last for several days after a disaster for everyone living in your home. Don't forget to consider the unique needs each person or pet may have in case you have to evacuate quickly. Update your kits and supplies based on the CDC's recommendations.
3. **Prepare for disasters.** Limit the impacts that disasters have on you and your family. Know the risk of disasters in your area and check your insurance coverage. Learn how to make your home stronger in the face of storms and other common hazards and act quickly if you receive a local warning or alert.
4. **Teach youth about preparedness.** Talk to your kids about preparing for emergencies and what to do in case you are separated. Reassure them by providing information about how they can get involved.



Biometric screenings and health assessments

ActiveHealth facilitates biometric screenings and health assessments. Complete a health assessment through [ActiveHealth](#) and earn a \$50 electronic gift card. Get a [biometric screening](#), and you will receive a \$100 electronic gift card!

Monthly wellness webinars

ActiveHealth also offers monthly webinars covering a range of wellness topics. Webinars are 45 minutes long, and you can choose from three start times: 10 a.m., 12:30 p.m. or 4:30 p.m. (ET). Don't miss out; registration is required. View the full [list](#) of upcoming webinars and sign up today!

Employee Assistance Program (EAP)

The Anthem EAP is a free service for all full-time state employees and those in their household, and can be a great tool to improve overall well-being. Anthem EAP tools and resources are available 24/7 and are completely confidential!

Visit the Anthem EAP website to get started. Once on their homepage, click the "Members Login" button on the left side. The next page will ask you to enter your company name, which is State of Indiana. Once you've hit the "Log In" button, all of these services are open to you.

To connect via phone, call 1-800-223-7723 and select option 1. This will get you connected to a trained EAP representative. The representative will then help you find a therapist who fits your specific situation and will even assist you in scheduling your initial appointment.



Check out courses to aid in your professional development!



Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging

Course Summary: Diversity is having a culture that values uniqueness: people of different backgrounds, cultures, genders, and races. Inclusion means inviting diverse groups to take part in company life. If you're tuned into conversations about HR, you've probably heard these terms before. But there's a third critical piece: belonging. It's belonging that makes individuals feel accepted for who they are. Explore the diversity, inclusion and belonging (DIB) approach, and discover how to activate it in your organization.

Time: 47 minutes

Click [here](#) to access the program

Have you accessed LinkedIn Learning yet?

If not, check out this easy to follow login [guide](#).

Don't forget to vote in Nov. 3 election

Be sure to stay safe while voting during the upcoming election.

You can submit a request for an [absentee ballot](#) if applicable by 11:59 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 22.

Steps you can take to protect yourself while voting in person include wearing a mask and practicing good hand hygiene. You should also consider voting early to avoid crowds.

Visit www.IndianaVoters.com to look up which candidates will be on your ballot. You'll be required to enter your county of residence, name and date of birth to access personal information.

You can also register to vote plus find information on your polling location and contact information for your county election office.

Important dates:

- **Oct. 5**
Voter Registration Ends
- **Oct. 6**
Early voting begins
- **Nov. 3**
General Election Day (state holiday)

3rd round of Fairbanks study begins

The third round of the IU Fairbanks School of Public Health and Indiana Department of Health COVID-19 prevalence study is set to begin Sept. 29.

The Indiana Department of Health is collaborating with the Richard M. Fairbanks School of Public Health at IUPUI to conduct a scientific study to measure the spread of COVID-19 in the state.

The closely monitored study will include random sample testing for SARS-CoV-2 — the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19 — viral infections and antibodies in Hoosiers.

This will be the third of four scientifically valid random sampling of Hoosiers in tests the state Department of Health and IU will perform. The first phase began April 25, and the second phase was in June.

Study participants were selected randomly and received a text message, phone call and postcard notifying them of their selection and encouraging them to schedule testing.

In Phase 2, IUPUI researchers determined the statewide estimate for active

You have been selected to receive **FREE** COVID-19 TESTING. The testing is part of a study by the Indiana University Fairbanks School of Public Health and the Indiana Department of Health to better understand the impact of COVID-19 across the Hoosier state.*

TESTING SITE NEAR YOU.

You will be asked to provide a nasal (nose) swab and anyone age 12 and older will also provide a small blood sample at a convenient testing site near you. You will also be asked questions about your health and any signs or symptoms of COVID-19.

CONFIDENTIAL AND SECURE.

You will be tested regardless of signs or symptoms at the time. Results will be confidential and available on a secure website as soon as they are ready.

HOW DO I REGISTER?

Please go to <https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/registration> to register for a test time or call **866-234-3933** for more information.

*This opportunity is available only to the person named on this postcard. You may also be contacted by phone, text or email regarding this study.

REGISTRATION #:

Please consider participating to help inform decisions about how to best protect Hoosiers during this public health emergency.

Indiana Department of Health | IUPUI

infection rate was 0.6 percent — a sharp decrease from the 1.7 percent observed in Phase 1. The estimate for antibody positivity in Phase 2 was 1.5 percent — an increase from 1.1 percent in the Phase 1 results.

Based on Phase 2 data, the researchers estimated that 43 percent of all Indiana residents who are infected with SARS-CoV-2 show no symptoms. This rate is similar to the almost 45 percent who tested positive for active viral infection and reported no symptoms at all in the first phase of testing.

The fourth phase is planned for April 2021.



LOOK WHO I MET ON THE ELEVATOR!

Jennifer Haller



TITLE: Genomics and Newborn Screening (GNBS) quality coordinator

Brief job description: I work directly with both the newborn screening team and the birth defects program housed within GNBS. I strive to improve the quality of our program processes and outreach initiatives to ensure the GNBS mission is fulfilled. In addition to my typical day-to-day tasks, I also manage the GNBS website (www.nbs.in.gov), oversee GNBS records retention, and ensure HIPAA compliance.

Time at ISDH: Two years on 10/09/2020

What do you like most about working at ISDH: I love that there is meaning in the work we do. I know that my actions and efforts ultimately make an impact on our Hoosier newborns and families. The teamwork and shared passion within my program, Maternal and Child Health division and IDOH is incredibly uplifting and motivates me to be the best person I can be every day!

Other information: I am currently working toward my master of public health degree in the hopes that I will one day be able to play a larger role in the work we do at IDOH! I typically spend my free time studying for school, caring for my animals or enjoying the great outdoors.

Staffing updates

Welcome to the following staff members who joined the Indiana Department of Health in August and September:

Sarah Germann, food safety farm consultant, Food Protection; Jennifer Hasbrook, medical surveyor, Survey Support/Guidance; Shannon Butte, public health nurse surveyor, Acute Care; Felicia Greer, Indiana Birth Defects and Problems Registry program manager, Maternal and Child Health; Haley Beeman, epidemiologist E7, Epidemiology Resource Center (ERC); Ashley Rainey, clinical director, Maternal & Child Health; Angela Shirk, public health nurse surveyor, Long-Term Care; Ashley Clodfelder, antimicrobial resistance epidemiologist, ERC; Leah Raider, contract tracing project manager. Congratulations to Nicole Morley on her promotion to director, Office of Public Health Performance Management.

► **LAB, continued from page 1**

transmitted diseases and viral diagnostics. She directed several clinical laboratories on the campus and for the associated medical system.

After her academic career ended in Maryland, New York City asked her to create a virology laboratory. The lab was defunded in 1980, but the city decided to resurrect it with public health funds received amid post-9/11 fears of an H5N1 bird flu pandemic.

Indiana lured Judy away from the East Coast in 2007, bringing her in as deputy director of the state Department of Health Lab and promoting her to lab director in 2008. In 2013, she was named assistant commissioner overseeing a number of divisions, which then included environmental health and epidemiology, food protection, laboratory services, public health protection and tuberculosis prevention. Today, her commission includes emergency preparedness, environmental public health, immunizations, labs and lead and healthy homes.



Dr. Lixia Liu

In honor of her service, Dr. Box presented a State Health Commissioner's Recognition to Dr. Lovchik for her Excellence in Public Health and her outstanding contributions in promoting, protecting and providing for the health of the people in Indiana for more than 13 years.

"We are blessed to have had the benefit of Judy's service all these years and will miss her as a leader and a friend," Dr. Box said. "I'm sure she never expected a pandemic as her send-off gift, but that's public health!"

Dr. Lovchik will be missed, and we wish her the best of luck as she enjoys retirement.

Dr. Lixia Liu will become assistant commissioner of the Laboratory Services Commission and the state lab director. Dr. Liu returned to the state Department of Health lab last year as the deputy director.



State Health Commissioner Dr. Kris Box presents on Sept. 14 the State Health Commissioner Recognition for Excellence in Public Health to retiring Assistant Commissioner Dr. Judy Lovchik.

Dr. Liu specializes in molecular biology and continued research in a new academic lab conducting a study on virulence-related genetic markers. She was also involved in method development for molecular diagnosis and a molecular epidemiological study of infections of cystic fibrosis patients.

The lab has risen to the challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic, thanks to the leadership of Dr. Lovchik, Dr. Liu and the laboratory team.

Congratulations to Drs. Lovchik and Liu.

Accreditation journey nears finish line

The Indiana Department of Health is racing toward the light at the end of the tunnel in our accreditation journey this year.

In February, we hosted our Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) site visitors. In June, we were notified that our accreditation is pending further work in 10 out of the 32 measures.

The Office of Public Health Performance Management's Accreditation Coordinator, Patricia Truelove, developed 10 small teams, informing our new 2020 Accreditation Team.

These team members are meeting throughout the rest of the year to identify new examples to submit to PHAB. The

Association of State and Territorial Health Officials is assisting by reviewing documents for completeness.

The teams are working hard to reach our end-of-year deadline, and we look

forward to a formal statement from PHAB in early 2021 announcing that Indiana Department of Health is an accredited state health department.

Thanks to all for your help.

