



## Adjunct IDOH Guidance: LTC Facilities Guidelines in Response to COVID-19 Vaccination

In the past four weeks, Indiana has seen a significant increase in COVID-19 cases fueled by the Delta variant, which spreads equal to or more than twice as easily from one person to another compared with earlier strains. Indiana's positivity rate has gone from just over 2 percent in late June to more than 6 percent at the end of July, and our daily case counts are climbing again. Because of this increase in activity and to help keep residents, healthcare personnel (HCP), and their families safe, this adjunct document outlines updates on masks and source controls to be immediately implemented in long-term care facilities.

Total 14-day long-term care (LTC) case counts in Indiana have more than quadrupled from June to July, and at least 20 facilities have more than 3 cases in the month of July. Almost all outbreaks that were sequenced in July were caused by Delta variant. Some fully vaccinated residents and staff have tested positive, but they tended to exhibit much milder symptoms than unvaccinated persons. In the larger population to date, 98 percent of all new COVID-19 cases have occurred in people who are not vaccinated. But even as COVID-19 cases increase, the rate of deaths is 70 percent lower than it was a year ago – largely due to the impact of the vaccines.

On July 27, in light of the national increase in COVID-19 activity that has been fueled by the Delta variant, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued [new recommendations](#) regarding the use of masking indoors. CDC recommends that everyone wear a mask in public indoor settings in areas with substantial or high COVID-19 transmission, regardless of vaccination status, to help prevent the spread of the Delta variant of COVID-19.

This will directly impact all visitors, healthcare personnel and residents at LTC, skilled nursing facilities and assisted living facilities. **Masks are required for all when the county positivity rates are above 5%** per Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) current guidance and risk assessments. The county positivity rate must be checked on a weekly basis using the CDC's COVID-19 [Data Tracker](#), although LTC facilities may choose to check the county positivity rate more frequently. If a LTC facility checks the county positivity rate on a weekly basis, the LTC facility should check on the same day each week.

- Wear a mask in public indoor settings if county positivity rates are equal to or above 5% ([substantial](#) or high transmission per CDC update). While fully vaccinated individuals were allowed to unmask in certain situations in the past few weeks, the following guidelines are changed for vaccinated persons as a result of the trends in cases, hospitalizations and deaths. The guidance for the unvaccinated continues as per previous. Fully vaccinated residents, fully vaccinated HCP and fully vaccinated visitors should continue to take precautions, including wearing face coverings, regardless of the level of transmission, particularly if they or someone in their household is immunocompromised or at increased risk for severe disease, or if someone in their household is unvaccinated.
  - o Fully vaccinated residents should wear a mask during all indoor activities, including church services, going on excursions when county positivity rates are equal to or above 5%.
  - o Fully vaccinated residents and fully vaccinated visitors are required to wear masks when indoors when the county positivity rates are equal to or above 5%.
  - o All HCP will wear source controls, appropriate mask by zone: green, yellow, and red, and for all zones when county positivity rates are equal to or above 5%.
- Get tested if experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.



Division of  
**Long Term Care**

## Adjunct IDOH Guidance: LTC Facilities Guidelines in Response to COVID-19 Vaccination

---

- Isolate if tested positive for COVID-19 in the prior 10 days or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.
- Even if asymptomatic, get tested 3-5 days after exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 and wear a mask in public indoor settings for 14 days after exposure or until have had a negative test result – regardless of vaccination status.
- Continue to follow any applicable federal, state, local, tribal or territorial laws, rules and regulations for wearing a mask if you are an HCP or resident who is out in the community.

Remember, getting vaccinated for COVID 19 is the most effective way to prevent severe disease and complications from COVID-19, including hospitalization and death. More information on the free vaccine is available at [ourshot.in.gov](https://ourshot.in.gov).