



# Update for Post-Acute Care Clinicians

November 2022

## Spotlight



### Welcome

The Indiana Department of Health created this monthly newsletter to communicate with you and provide information relevant to post-acute care facilities. Several brief summaries of recent updates on a variety of subjects are highlighted below. Hyperlinks on each topic are provided for your convenience.

## Updates

- Updated COVID-19 infection control guidance for healthcare settings from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the updated memos pertinent to long-term care settings for Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) were released on Sept. 23. A summary of these updates was presented on a webinar with Indiana Health Care Association and the slide deck is available online: [CLICK THIS LINK](#)
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a [Health Alert Network \(HAN\) Health Advisory](#) about early, elevated respiratory disease incidence caused by multiple viruses occurring especially among children and placing a strain on healthcare systems.
- Diagnostic testing can guide treatment and management to improve patients' clinical course and outcomes for influenza and SARS-CoV-2. There are antiviral options recommended for specific groups.
- Offer and encourage all appropriate preventive options to your patients:



- [Influenza vaccine](#)
- [COVID-19 primary series](#) if someone has not received it in the past
- [COVID-19 bivalent booster](#) for the eligible (one dose of the bivalent booster at least two months after the last dose of the COVID-19 vaccine for age 5 and older)
- Ages 18 years and older have the option to receive a [Novavax monovalent booster](#) instead of an updated (bivalent) Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna booster if they have completed primary series vaccination but have not previously received a COVID-19 booster—and if they cannot or will not receive mRNA vaccines
- [EVUSHELD](#), a monoclonal antibody, is authorized as pre-exposure prophylaxis to prevent COVID-19 in people who have moderate to severe immune compromise. EVUSHELD can

also be used by those for whom vaccination with any available COVID-19 vaccine is not recommended due to a history of severe adverse reaction to a COVID-19 vaccine(s) or its component(s).

- [Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine](#) (PCV15 or PCV20) for all adults 65 years or older who have never received any pneumococcal conjugate vaccine or whose previous vaccination history is unknown:
  - If PCV15 is used, this should be followed by a dose of PPSV23 one year later. The minimum interval is 8 weeks and can be considered in adults with an immunocompromising condition, cochlear implant, or cerebrospinal fluid leak.
  - If PCV20 is used, a dose of PPSV23 is NOT indicated

See Pneumococcal Vaccination: [Summary of Who and When to Vaccinate for CDC guidance on vaccination options](#) for adults who have previously received a pneumococcal conjugate vaccine.

- Start antiviral treatment early for the eligible
  - Start influenza antiviral treatment as early as possible for any patient with confirmed or suspected influenza who is: a) hospitalized; b) an outpatient at higher risk for influenza complications; or c) an outpatient with a severe, complicated, or progressive illness. *Clinicians should not wait for laboratory confirmation to decide when to start influenza antiviral treatment in patients with suspected influenza.* A summary of therapeutic options for influenza can be found online. [CLICK THIS LINK](#)
  - The antiviral medications nirmatrelvir and ritonavir (Paxlovid) or remdesivir (Veklury) are the preferred treatment options for COVID-19 in patients with mild to moderate illness who are at increased risk for severe illness, including older adults, unvaccinated persons, and those with certain medical conditions. The antiviral medication molnupiravir (Lagevrio) and monoclonal antibody bebtelovimab are alternative treatment options when Paxlovid and Veklury are contraindicated or not available. The COVID-19 therapeutics locator can be found online: [CLICK THIS LINK](#)

## Contact Information

Please feel free to email me if you any questions or if you would like me to address anything specifically.

Sincerely,

Shireesha Vuppalanchi, MD  
Medical Director

[CLICK THIS LINK](#)



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

