



Indiana
Department
of
Health

Long-term Care NEWSLETTER

LTC Newsletter 2021-55

Nov. 18, 2021

LTC Update:

- **New CMS Guidance – Nursing Home Visitation (REVISED)**
- **COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Survey – NEW**
- **Essential Family Caregiver (EFC) Program**

New CMS Guidance – Nursing Home Visitation (REVISED)

IDOH COVID-19 Long-term Care Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is being updated to reflect the new guidance related to visitation for all residents from CMS. All facilities (nursing homes and residential) should begin planning for implementation of this new guidance.

[QSO -20-39-NH – Nursing Home Visitation – COVID-19 \(REVISED\)](#)

COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Survey – NEW

IDOH appreciates long-term care facilities ensuring that eligible residents are offered COVID-19 booster doses as soon as possible, including an established process to offer booster shots to new admissions and residents that become eligible in the future. To provide important data on booster administration in long-term care facilities, all facilities must complete a brief REDCap survey upon completion of offering and administering boosters to eligible residents (including booster clinics with pharmacy partners). This survey will remain open through the end of December to allow facilities to submit the information.

[LTC COVID19 Vaccine Booster Dose Attestation Form](#)

Essential Family Caregiver (EFC) Program

The COVID-19 pandemic has uniquely affected residents of long-term care facilities, nursing homes and assisted living facilities. One of the many detrimental effects from this pandemic was the psychological toll from social and emotional isolation. Recognizing the critical role that outsider caregivers play in the well-being of long-term care residents, state lawmakers and healthcare providers worked together to establish legislative policy that will ensure residents can continue to receive the physical and emotional care required.

The Indiana Department of Health has established new guidelines to ensure these programs are present at all facilities. An Implementation Toolkit provides facilities with information and tools to support the Essential Family Caregiver (EFC) Program.

All facilities shall create and maintain an EFC Program to ensure all long-term care residents can continue to receive the person-centered care needed in the event of future visitation restrictions related to a public health emergency or other declared emergency.

[Essential Family Caregiver Program—Implementation Toolkit](#)

[Essential Family Caregiver Program—Education Power Point](#)