



Indiana
Department
of
Health

Long-term Care **NEWSLETTER**

LTC Newsletter 2024-16
August 9, 2024

LTC Update:

- **CDC Recommendations for Respiratory Viruses**
- **Nurse Aide Investigations**
- **Free Virtual Courses for Skilled Nursing Facility Personnel**

CDC Recommendations for Respiratory Viruses

The CDC has updated their recommendations to vaccinate against respiratory viruses for this fall and winter: COVID-19, Flu, and RSV.

- **COVID-19** – Everyone ages 6 months and older should receive an updated 2024-2025 COVID-19 vaccine when these vaccines become available. The 2024-2025 vaccine is formulated to protect against currently circulating variants of COVID-19.
- **Influenza** – Everyone ages 6 months and older, with rare exceptions, should receive an updated 2024-2025 flu vaccine. The updated 2024-2025 flu vaccine will be trivalent and will protect against H1N1, H3N2, and a B/Victoria lineage virus. While CDC recommends flu vaccination as long as influenza viruses are circulating, September and October remain the best times for most people to get vaccinated.
- **Respiratory Syncytial Virus** – For those who have not already received an RSV vaccine and are age 60 or older, the CDC now recommends a single dose of RSV vaccine as listed below:
 - Everyone ages 75 and older.
 - People ages 60 to 74 who are at increased risk of severe RSV, meaning they have certain chronic medical conditions, such as lung or heart disease, or they live in nursing homes or other long-term care facilities.

The best time to get vaccinated against RSV is late summer or early fall, before RSV usually starts to spread in the community. However, eligible adults can get an RSV vaccine at any time.

For more information, see this July 12 CDC article, CDC Updates Vaccine Recommendations, here: <https://www.cdc.gov/ncird/whats-new/cdc-updates-vaccine-recommendations-july-2024.html>

Nurse Aide Investigations

IDOH is responsible for conducting investigations into nurse aides (Certified Nurse Aides, Qualified Medication Aides, and Home Health Aides) who have allegedly committed abuse, neglect, or misappropriation. IDOH is required by 42 CFR 488.332 to investigate these allegations, and the sharing of requested information is part of the facility and agency's participation requirements—subpoenas are not required. The goal of IDOH Nurse Aide Investigations is to protect vulnerable residents and clients from aides who have abused, neglected, or misappropriated money or other items from those residents.

The IDOH team conducting these investigations will ask for evidence (including relevant documentation, videos, pictures, and written statements) and will ask follow-up questions to administration and staff during their investigations. An IDOH review committee will determine whether an allegation of abuse, neglect, or misappropriation is substantiated and requires a finding to be placed on the Aides Registry.

If the nurse aide appeals the committee's decision, the administration and employees who witnessed the allegation may be required to testify at the hearing. At that time, IDOH attorneys may contact those witnesses to describe the hearing process, go over relevant testimony, and get further information. Cooperation with IDOH attorneys and the administrative process is the best way to ensure that aides who are a danger to residents or patients are no longer able to have contact with these vulnerable populations.

Questions regarding the process can be directed to aideinvestigations@health.in.gov.

Free Virtual Courses for Skilled Nursing Facility Personnel

The Indiana Department of Health and the University of Indianapolis Center for Aging and Community are offering free virtual courses for skilled nursing facility personnel in subject areas relevant to the long-term care setting, such as pressure injury and prevention, emergency and disaster management, and abuse and neglect prevention. Below is a list of upcoming sessions:

- [Abuse and Neglect Prevention in Long Term Care](#) – Sep 10
 - Taught by Becky Bartle, MSN, RN, HFA
 - Topics covered include human dignity for all persons, recognizing abuse and neglect, causes of abuse and neglect of residents, training for staff that prevents stressors, abuse by other residents, abuse by visitors/family members, preventing abuse and neglect and intervening, reporting abuse and neglect, and mechanisms to administratively monitor for potential abuse.
- [Pressure Injury Prevention and Management in Long Term Care](#) – Sep 11, 18, 20, and 25
 - Taught by Jeri Ann Lundgren, RN, BSN, PHN, CWS, CWCN, CPT
 - Topics covered include utilizing QAPI to set up an effective pressure injury prevention program, risk assessment, care planning, prevention of skin breakdown, assessment, staging, topical treatment, and lower extremity ulcers.

Each course offers long-term care specific examples. Courses will be offered at various times through May 2025. CEUs are available through the Indiana Department of Health for administrators and social workers.

For more information and to register, click on the corresponding course name above. These courses are funded through the Indiana Department of Health using Civil Money Penalty funds.

If you have any questions, please contact Leah Jones at the University of Indianapolis Center for Aging and Community at Jonesl001@uindy.edu.