FLYING RULES UPDATED
Flying to the U.S. from a foreign country? As of Dec. 6, all air passengers, regardless of vaccination status, must show a negative COVID-19 test taken no more than 1 day before travel to the United States. Here is an easy-to-understand chart to clarify the new guidance. A reminder that a federal order is still in place requiring face masks be worn by all people while on public transportation.

VACCINES and OMICRON VARIANT
According to the CDC, current vaccines are expected to protect against severe illness, hospitalizations and deaths due to infection with the Omicron variant. Vaccine manufacturer Pfizer issued a news release on its COVID-19 vaccine’s effectiveness against this new mutation, and the CDC created an Omicron webpage with information, recommendations and a list of states where it has been detected. The best protection against the new variant is to be fully vaccinated and to get a booster dose when you’re eligible. Indiana has not yet reported any cases caused by the Omicron variant.

BOOSTERS APPROVED FOR 16- TO 17-YEAR OLDS
Last week the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) authorized the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine to be used as a booster dose for individuals ages 16 and 17, six months after their last dose. The booster dose is the same dosage as the primary series, and anyone younger than 18 must receive Pfizer, as it’s the only vaccine authorized for that age group. Anyone can find a vaccine clinic for boosters or primary doses at OurShot.IN.gov.

More booster news:
- The Indiana Department of Health created an updated chart on mixing doses.
- Reminder: Look for the RED pin on OurShot.IN.gov for clinics offering the Pfizer pediatric dose for children age 5 to 11.

WAIT TIME AFTER RECEIVING BOOSTER DOSE
The recommended wait time is 15 minutes after a booster dose of any of the COVID-19 vaccines, even if you did not experience any adverse event from your primary series shots. Remember: If you are 18 years or older you may choose which COVID-19 vaccine you receive as a booster shot. Some people may prefer the vaccine type that they originally received, and others may prefer to get a different booster. CDC’s recommendations now allow for this type of mix and match dosing for booster shots.

VACCINE CLINIC CONTINUES AT IMS
IndyCar parking lot, 4551 W. 16th St., Indy
Dates & Times
Dec. 15 – Dec. 22
Wednesday, Dec. 15 to Friday, Dec. 17 | Noon – 8 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 18 and Sunday, Dec. 19 | 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 20 – Wednesday, Dec. 22 | noon – 8 p.m.

FACEBOOK PROFILE FRAMES
As our vaccination numbers go up, the number of Hoosiers sick and hospitalized goes down. For our hesitant friends and family, a profile picture is a great way to say, “Ask me about my COVID vaccination.” Be sure you are logged into your Facebook account, and choose from several frames launched by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the CDC HERE.

Helpful Resources
- What you can do if you are fully vaccinated.
- Know a homebound individual who needs a vaccine? Call 211. Agents can help.
- Register for a vaccination appointment at OurShot.IN.gov (Chrome or Firefox). Call Indiana 211 or (1-866-211-9966) if you have difficulty registering online.
- Free rides to vaccine clinics are offered by IU Health. Call 1.888.IUHEALTH (1.888.484.3258) and choose option 9.
- Free rides are also available to vaccination appointments at select Kroger locations. You will receive a code to use for Lyft ridesharing service with your appointment confirmation.
- Learn about V-Safe, the after-vaccination health checker, and the new V-safe COVID-19 Pregnancy Registry.
- V-safe is also available now in multiple languages.
- Report any adverse effects from any vaccine to the Vaccine Adverse Effect Reporting System (VAERS).