COVID-19 VACCINE
Latest Updates & Resources
Sept. 1, 2021

Full Approval For Pfizer Covid-19 Vaccine
On Aug. 23, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) gave approval to the first COVID-19 vaccine, Pfizer-BioNTech. The vaccine was named Comirnaty and is approved for anyone age 16 and older. (Pfizer use for individuals 12 – 15 is still under Emergency Use Authorization. Moderna and Johnson & Johnson continue to operate under EUA for their approved age groups.) There’s never been a better time to get vaccinated.

.416% is a Powerful Number
Less than one half of one percent of fully vaccinated people have tested positive for COVID-19. The vaccines work. The current surge in Indiana is being driven by people who are unvaccinated. Consider getting vaccinated today. Talk to your doctor, family member or other trusted individual if you have any questions. We have lots of information on our FAQs as well.

LONG-TERM CARE DATA
IDOH recently updated its COVID-19 vaccine dashboard to include information on the state’s long-term care facilities. Information includes vaccination numbers for long-term care staff and residents, with details for individual counties and providers/facilities. (Be sure to select “long-term care” in the upper right corner of the dashboard.)

Booster VS. Third Dose
What’s the difference?
• Third Dose:
Sometimes people who are moderately to severely immunocompromised do not build enough (or any) protection when they first get a vaccination. When this happens, getting another dose of the vaccine can sometimes help them build more protection against the disease, including COVID-19. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends moderately to severely immunocompromised people consider receiving a third dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) at least 28 days after the second dose. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine is not included in the recommendation at this time.
• Booster:
In contrast, a booster dose refers to another dose of a vaccine that is given to someone who built enough protection after vaccination, but then that protection decreased over time and needs a boost.

SHOULD I GET A BOOSTER SHOT?
Booster doses are not yet available. Scientists say all of the COVID-19 vaccines provide good protection against the circulating variants, including Delta. Plans are in the works to offer booster doses later this fall to individuals who have had their last dose 6-8 months ago, pending approval from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Read details on booster guidance, data on immune responses and more on the CDC website.

FIND TESTING & VACCINE SITES
The Indiana Department of Health (IDOH), local health departments, providers and pharmacies statewide are expanding testing and vaccination capabilities. IDOH updates the OurShot (vaccine) and testing map daily. Mobile sites are popping up across the state, so check back often to find a location near you.

Helpful Resources
• What you can do if you are fully vaccinated.
• Know a homebound individual who needs a vaccine? Call 211. Agents can make an appointment.
• Proof of vaccination is available at Access Indiana. Scroll down to the “Indiana Vaccination Portal” tile, create an account, and download a vaccination certificate.
• 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. ALL vaccine clinics take walk-ins.
• Free rides to vaccine clinics are offered by IU Health. Call 1.888.IUHEALTH (1.888.484.3258) and choose option 9.
• 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).