



Eric J. Holcomb  
Governor

Kristina M. Box, MD, FACOG  
State Health Commissioner

April 5, 2022

Dear Partners:

The number of Hoosiers being infected with SARS-CoV-2 and those hospitalized or experiencing other serious adverse outcomes related to COVID-19 has sharply decreased since January 2022. COVID-19 community levels across Indiana are low compared to those previously encountered during the Omicron surge. Unfortunately, the prospect of new variants of concern, the potential seasonality of transmission, and underlying social and medical vulnerabilities increase the likelihood that we will experience future waves of increased transmission of COVID-19. This may lead to increased incidence of morbidity and mortality.

To ensure the state is prepared for the next surge of COVID-19, we ask that our partners including but not limited to, hospitals, local health departments, primary care providers, long-term care facilities, and other congregate care settings — have updated emergency plans in place now.

In the event of a surge, a comprehensive emergency plan would:

- Ensure adequate supplies of personal protective equipment (PPE), including procedural masks and NIOSH-approved respirators, are readily available (at least a 10-week supply)
- Ensure adequate testing supplies are readily available
- Include a method to anticipate/calculate daily PPE usage or burn rates and significant changes that may occur related to a surge
- Ensure compliance with infection control procedures including updated staff trainings
- Ensure and promote proven COVID-19 mitigation and control measures. [COVID-19-Control-Measures-v.8-2-22-22.pdf \(in.gov\)](#)
- Ensure compliance with reporting requirement
  - State and federal reporting via EMResource and/or TeleTracking or NHSN
  - Federal therapeutics reporting via HPOP
- Ensure maintained access to therapeutics for both staff and patients
- Ensure continued equitable access to vaccines for all Hoosiers

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



Please note that IDOH continues to have free PPE and testing supplies available to order through Langham Logistics <https://warehouse.elangham.com/Account/LogOn?ReturnUrl=%2F>.

Congregate living facilities should also have an identified partner that can supply them with COVID-19 therapeutics. This may include long-term care pharmacies or retail pharmacies. Expedited access to therapeutics is necessary to effectively treat COVID-19, given that many treatments need to be administered within five days of symptom onset.

Healthcare facilities should maintain existing relationships with proven laboratories to support COVID-19 testing of their patients and staff. The end of federal funding for COVID-19 testing for patients without health insurance means there may be fewer free testing providers in the private market.

Facilities should make plans to support COVID-19 testing through their traditional programs for uninsured patients.

IDOH is expanding access to rapid tests by offering free at-home test kits to every county through local partners beginning in May. Approximately a million tests will be distributed across the state. We are working with the LHDs and local partners now and will have more information available on our website soon.

Additionally, free at-home COVID-19 tests for uninsured patients are available at community health centers and Medicare-certified health clinics. Uninsured patients may also order free at-home COVID-19 tests from the federal government at [covidtests.gov](https://www.covidtests.gov). Individuals with employer-sponsored or Marketplace health insurance are also eligible for as many as eight at-home over-the-counter COVID-19 tests per month at no cost.

Within congregate settings, such as long-term care facilities, jails and correctional facilities, partners must ensure processes are maintained for identification and notification of increased cases and potential assistance needs from your LHD or IDOH. IDOH-operated mobile COVID-19 vaccination and testing units remain available for request at <https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/host-a-community-vaccination-and-testing-event/>.



We encourage our partners to maintain the other support capabilities developed during the COVID-19 pandemic to best prepare for future surges.

Thank you for your continued partnership and dedication to providing equitable access to resources and care to all Hoosiers.

Yours in Health,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristina M. Box".

Kristina M. Box, MD, FACOG  
State Health Commissioner

## Indiana's Right on TRACK Plan Overview

*This plan lays out Indiana's approach to the next phase of the COVID-19 pandemic – recovery. This plan leverages the extensive partnerships and processes that have been fostered throughout the past two years. Through our sustained successes and continuous improvement, we are using the process to keep Indiana on TRACK.*



*This plan focuses on how Indiana maintains our ability to mitigate and control the spread of COVID-19 through sustainable practices, while preparing for future public health emergencies. Ensuring equitable access to resources for our most vulnerable populations remains a core competency of Indiana's approach to the COVID-19 pandemic.*

## TRACK

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### T - Testing and Treatment

- Distribute at-home over-the-counter COVID-19 tests to schools and local health departments (LHDs) to distribute in their communities
- Expand access to treatment options
  - Treatment: Monoclonal antibody treatments (infusions) Treatment: Oral antivirals
    - Continue expansion of locations offering oral antivirals
  - Prevention: Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP)/ prevention
- Long-term care (LTC) access to treatment from LTC pharmacies and local partners (retail pharmacy and hospitals). Educate health care providers and the public on the availability of treatment option and locations.

### R – Readiness

- Develop and maintain Indiana stockpile of personal protective equipment (PPE), vaccines, and testing supplies
- Promote an all-hazards approach to preparedness, including readiness for the next pandemic, natural disaster, or terrorism
- Update preparedness and response plans based on lessons learned from COVID-19 and considerations for the next pandemic

### A – Awareness

- Implement updated, accessible, and mobile friendly data dashboards with additional features to track community spread and variants
- Inform and enable Hoosiers to be consumers of information regarding COVID-19 in their communities and how they can protect themselves
- Enhanced functions and features to monitor levels and burden of COVID-19 in the community through continued coordination of state and local recovery efforts

## C – Community Resilience and Countermeasures

- Address health inequities between communities regarding race, ethnicity, age, geography (rural vs. urban), and other social determinants of health
- Primary proven countermeasure to prevent severe illness and hospitalization is vaccine
- Advocate for mitigation measures for those most at risk of severe disease progression and death, such as aging populations and the immunocompromised
- Continue engagement with communities to address vaccine hesitancy and identify needs

## K - Kids

- Promote an in-person learning environment in schools and early childhood learning centers and excellence in healthy behaviors
- Sustain collaborative partnership between the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) and the Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA)
- Encourage continued local partnerships between LHDs, schools, and early childhood learning centers
- Provide at-home testing capabilities to schools
- Support catch-up routine immunizations and screening efforts in the summer and fall 2022
  - Utilize IDOH-operated mobile units to augment local capacity for administration of routine immunizations
  - Provide support to schools for preventive health screenings (hearing and vision) that were delayed during the pandemic