

Resilience in Recovery Against COVID-19

For more information, please visit tellourstories.com/resilienceinrecovery

Our fight against COVID-19 is not over. We must create environments and facilitate behaviors to disrupt the epidemiological transition of this virus and protect our most vulnerable population.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services national public health emergency declaration (PHE) has been renewed through January 16, 2022.

Our Current Situation

- The delta variant is **2.4x more contagious** than the original circulating March 2020 strain of SARS-CoV2 - so shorter exposure to fewer people can lead to infection - last winter the SARS-CoV2 variant was significantly less contagious.
- The virus continues to move North with infections increasing due to activity moving indoors.
- We are carrying much more virus into this Fall (>80K cases/day) rather than last year (35K cases/day).
- Vaccines remain **extremely protective against severe disease and death** with both strong cellular and humoral immunity but with declining neutralizing antibody levels month by month. Current COVID-19 vaccines may not be as effective in preventing mild transient infections.
- **What does that mean?** The vaccines may not prevent viral shedding from the upper respiratory tract or prevent vaccinated individuals from transmitting the virus to others, especially indoors where aerosols are generated.

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2

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Proactive Prevention For The Next Outbreak



- **Testing** is critical to identify asymptomatic and mild cases among BOTH the vaccinated and unvaccinated to stop community spread.
- **Vaccination alone won't be enough** to ensure against exposure and infection from new variants. An increased layer of protection is needed, including:
 - **masking indoors**
 - **minimizing unmasked indoor gatherings**
 - **proactive testing with isolation of those infected**
 - **monitoring and protecting indoor air quality**



- **Pay special attention to break rooms** and any location staff will be unmasked to increase layers of protection and limit occupancy.
- Vaccinated staff and residents may be asymptotically infected and unknowingly spread the virus to others, including those without an effective/protective immune response who may be susceptible to severe diseases. **Consider antibody tests and cohort those without immunity** in an extra protection wing with increased regular testing.



For further recommendations for cohorting in long-term care facilities during a COVID-19 outbreak, please visit [CDC's recommendations](#).

For additional questions, please direct inquiries to seniorlivingadvocacy@directsupply.com



Tell Our Stories

Your Story Matters.

The COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately affected both seniors and the staff who care for them – spotlighting the vulnerability of this population and exposing the need for immediate legislative action to protect the senior living community.

Tell Our Stories showcases the stories and individuals directly affected by the legislative actions surrounding senior care. Lend your voice and tell us your story as we seek to amplify the support for funding and regulations surrounding senior care.

Join the conversation! You play a direct role in preparing, preventing and protecting our nation's seniors in the face of rising infection cases across the United States. Shine a light on your courageous team members and tell us the challenges you continue to face a year and a half into the COVID-19 pandemic.

Share your story on social media using #SeniorVoices or submit your story on tellyourstories.com/resilienceinrecovery