

Stay Vigilant Against COVID-19.

Prepare. Protect. Prevent.

The fight against COVID-19 is not over. As our country is once again experiencing an increase in coronavirus cases, we must rally together to protect our most vulnerable population.

PREPARE FOR THE FALL & WINTER

Where We Are

- The current surge is similar in geography to the surge last summer but with rapid increase and more movement towards the northern region in the U.S. This surge raises concerns about the Fall and Winter. It's critical to prepare and plan now.
- Vaccines with clear immunogenicity have significant protection to severe disease, hospitalization and death, as evidence by the lower CFR.
- The immunogenicity of the current vaccines in the very elderly and elderly with underlying malnutrition and debilitation is unclear. Immunogenicity needs to be studied with surveillance antibody testing against the spike protein (Ortho and Abbott –simple serum test).

Where We Are Headed

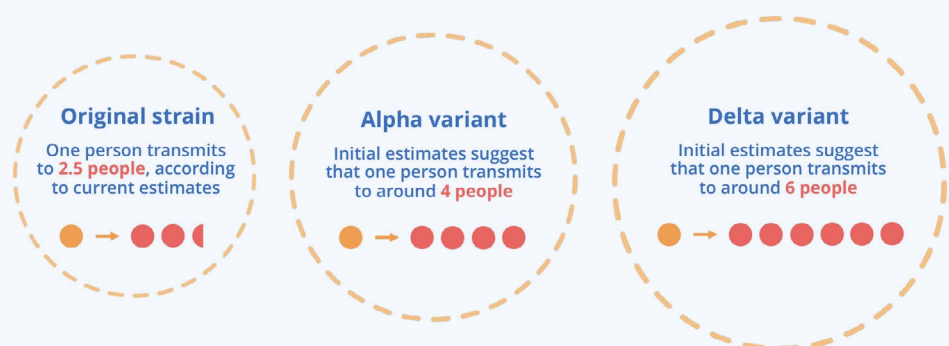
- The delta variant is almost 3x as "contagious", which means less exposure to fewer people can lead to infection.
- Vaccines protect primarily against severe disease and death. The vaccine may not effectively prevent viral shedding from the respiratory tract and transmission to others.
- The immunogenicity of the vaccines among the very elderly and frailer elderly is currently unknown and needs to be studied to understand the protective factor in our LTCF.

To understand the status of your community, please visit <https://protect-public.hhs.gov/>

VARIANTS

Delta Variant is Significantly More Contagious

Estimated number of people who contract the virus from one infected person in a population without vaccines, lockdowns, or other precautions (known as the reproductive number, or R0)



Sources: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Lancet.

Protect and Prevent

Preparing and planning **now** is critical as the surge of infections mirrors what was recorded in 2020 heading into the fall and winter months.



- **All prevention strategies available must be implemented**, including the universal and correct use of masks indoors, hand hygiene, physical distancing, environmental cleaning and disinfection protocols, and contact tracing combined with isolation and quarantine.



- **Proactively test** staff weekly and ensure all staff are alert to community spread.
- **Booster shots**—especially for the elderly and other high-risk populations—are inevitable. Long-term care communities should be ready to administer booster immunizations to residents.
- **Continue quarantining** all unvaccinated residents.
- **Review visitation policy and ensure effective masking** – consider double-masking with cloth and surgical, N95 or KN95 for visiting family members who are vaccinated and require outdoor visitation.



- **Pay attention** to break rooms, and any location where staff will be unmasked.
- **Improve indoor air quality** by increasing ventilation and limiting occupancy.

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 TellOurStories.com/stay-vigilant