



South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs

Emergency Operations Center (EOC): EOC@DDSN.SC.GOV; 803-898-9754

SITUATION REPORT NO. 50, DATE: SEPTEMBER 16, 2021

EVENT: COVID-19 PANDEMIC

I. BIDEN HARRIS ADMINISTRATION TO EXPAND VACCINE REQUIREMENTS FOR HEALTH CARE SETTINGS

On September 9, President Biden announced that COVID-19 vaccinations will be mandatory in all Medicare and Medicaid certified facilities. This certainly appears to affect all Intermediate Care Facility staff and possibly others. The extent of the plan will be introduced in a CMS Interim Final Rule. That Final Rule will have a comment period.

CMS anticipates the new Interim Final Rule with a comment period will be issued in October. A link to the announcement can be found [here](#).

II. VACCINE BOOSTERS FOR IMMUNOCOMPROMISED PEOPLE NOW RECOMMENDED

The CDC is now recommending a third vaccine shot (booster) of the Pfizer Comirnaty vaccine and Moderna vaccine. The boosters should be received at least 28 days after a second dose of the vaccine. **The CDC does not recommend additional doses for any other population at this time.** The additional dose should be recorded on the individual's vaccination card that was received and recorded the vaccinations at the time of the first and second dose.

For more information on boosters for Immunocompromised individuals see the CDC guidance [here](#).

III. CDC DEVELOPS EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS FOR PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES AND CARE PROVIDERS

The CDC has developed new educational aids for people with intellectual disabilities covering five (5) basic topics, hand washing, COVID-19 tests, masks, getting a COVID-19 shot, and social distancing until you have received your shot. The aids were developed to make it easier for those with intellectual disabilities to understand COVID-19 safety.

The materials can be found [here](#).

IV. **BREAKTHROUGH INFECTIONS IN VACCINATED INDIVIDUALS ARE LESS LIKELY TO RESULT IN “LONG COVID”**

The National Institutes for Health have released an article by Dr. Francis Collins indicating that vaccinated individuals are far less likely to get “Long COVID Syndrome.” The article can be found [here](#).

V. **DHEC CREATES STAY SC STRONG WEBSITE TO PROVIDE RELIABLE VACCINE INFORMATION**

[Stayscstrong.com](https://stayscstrong.com) is a new website created by DHEC to provide reliable vaccine resources to educate South Carolinians about the COVID-19 vaccines and address vaccine hesitancy issues. The site contains tool kits addressing masks, testing, and vaccines and other resources that can be used to promote vaccines and other safe practices.