

Dear UCP Seguin Staff, Foster Parents, Families, and Friends,

Although we are already a month into the season, yesterday's beautiful weather calls for an enthusiastic "Happy Spring" greeting! We hope that all of you are well and that you are looking forward to more great weather days as we get closer to May. We are writing to you today with a COVID-19 update. It has been just over month since our last COVID communication and we are happy to report that at UCP Seguin, our environments have continued to remain stable from both an illness and a staff turnover perspective.

Illinois COVID-19 Data

As of today, the preliminary rolling positivity rate in Illinois is 4.1%. Looking back to the beginning of 2021, we were hovering in the neighborhood of 12%. Today's data represents a significant improvement in our numbers and is likely attributable to many people being vaccinated against the virus. Important to note, however, is that COVID-19 is still very active and thousands of people in Illinois and around the country are continuing to be infected with the virus – some of them becoming very sick and still far too many people are dying of complications associated with COVID-19. The table below represents today's COVID-19 numbers in Illinois:

Statistics	Daily data
New vaccine doses administered	50,512
Total vaccine doses administered	8,942,127
Total Illinoisans fully vaccinated	3,835,491
% Illinoisans fully vaccinated	30.10%
New reported deaths	23
Total reported deaths	21,858
% of deaths linked to retirement homes (as of 4/16/21)	48%
New reported cases	2,556
Total reported cases	1,325,726
Increase/decrease in hospitalizations	97
Total COVID patients currently hospitalized	2,180
Share of ventilators being used (all patients)	24%
Share of ICU beds being used (all patients)	75%
Share of hospital beds being used (all patients)	71%

Vaccinations

The Centers for Disease Control published on their web site that “ *COVID-19 vaccination will be an important tool to help stop the pandemic. A growing body of evidence suggests that fully vaccinated people are less likely to be infected without showing symptoms (called an asymptomatic infection) and potentially less likely to spread the virus that causes COVID-19 to others*”. As you know, we have been extremely busy hosting 10 vaccination clinics at UCP Seguin over the last three months. Our efforts have resulted in 95% of program participants residing in our CILA programs and 65% of our employees being fully vaccinated. Now, with vaccine doses being much more widely accessible to anyone over the age of 16 in Illinois, we are not planning any additional onsite clinics but will continue to educate and provide location information to employees so that those who have not yet been vaccinated and are ready to do so will know where they can go to receive their shot. Scientists have continued to reinforce that vaccines are our most powerful and important weapon against COVID-19. Until most people are vaccinated, COVID will continue to pose a public health threat. In Illinois, over 9,000,000 Illinoisans have been vaccinated as of today. This is a great start, but it cannot be understated that we have a long way to go before reaching a percentage that will result in herd immunity, which will ultimately allow us to safely get back to normal. Below is the most recent UCP Seguin vaccine clinic data:

Date	Clinic Sponsor	Version of Vaccine	Number of Vaccines Given	Number of Volunteers
2/4/21	Walgreens	Pfizer	777	80
2/9/21	CIMPAR	Moderna	158	10
2/19/21	CIMPAR	Moderna	204	12
2/25/21	Walgreens	Pfizer	884	80
3/9/21	CIMPAR	Moderna	170	10
3/18/21	Walgreens	Pfizer	243	20
3/19/21	CIMPAR	Moderna	259	12
4/6/21	CiMPAR	Moderna	95	10
4/8/21	Walgreens	Pfizer	124	20
4/16/21	CIMPAR	Moderna	114	10

Kudos goes out to the staff and volunteers who dedicated incalculable time to organizing and hosting these clinics with dedication, determination, organization, grace, and kindness. We are extremely proud of UCP Seguin's contribution to increasing awareness and creating safer environments for all.

As we indicated in previous COVID communications, we think it is important to again reinforce **that mild *reactogenic* side effects of the COVID-19 vaccines have been observed in some**, with most of those happening after the second dose. **Reactogenic side effects include minor discomfort such as pain at the injection site, fatigue, headache, and fever.** While it's easy to assume that experiencing side effects is an indication that the vaccine itself has made us sick, this is not the case! In fact, **side effects are not a sign that the vaccine is unsafe but are actually a sign of our immune systems kicking into gear!** While uncomfortable, **they are not bad or dangerous.**





























Following the dosage of the Johnson & Johnson variation of the vaccine, six (6) women experienced hard-to-treat blood clots. **This is an extremely RARE occurrence**, with only 0.00001% experiencing this severe side effect. On April 23rd, the FDA amended the emergency use authorization of the Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) COVID-19 vaccine to include information about this very rare and serious type of blood clot in people who receive the vaccine. The vaccine has been deemed safe and is again available to people over the age of 18.

For additional information regarding the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, please follow the link below:

<https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/janssen-covid-19-vaccine>

Thirteen months into this pandemic and we are not done fighting the battle against COVID quite yet. However, the light at the end of the COVID-19 tunnel gets brighter and brighter with every vaccination! The CDC just released further safety guidance yesterday, which is represented on the graphic below.

Choosing Safer Activities

	Unvaccinated People	Your Activity	Fully Vaccinated People
		Outdoor	
Safest		Walk, run, or bike outdoors with members of your household	
		Attend a small, outdoor gathering with fully vaccinated family and friends	
		Attend a small, outdoor gathering with fully vaccinated and unvaccinated people	
Less Safe		Dine at an outdoor restaurant with friends from multiple households	
		Attend a crowded, outdoor event, like a live performance, parade, or sports event	
		Indoor	
Less Safe		Visit a barber or hair salon	
		Go to an uncrowded, indoor shopping center or museum	
		Ride public transport with limited occupancy	
		Attend a small, indoor gathering of fully vaccinated and unvaccinated people from multiple households	
Least Safe		Go to an indoor movie theater	
		Attend a full-capacity worship service	
		Sing in an indoor chorus	
		Eat at an indoor restaurant or bar	
		Participate in an indoor, high intensity exercise class	

Get a COVID-19 vaccine



Prevention measures not needed



Take prevention measures

Fully vaccinated people: wear a mask
Unvaccinated people: wear a mask, stay 6 feet apart, and wash your hands.

- Safety levels assume the recommended prevention measures are followed, both by the individual and the venue (if applicable).
- CDC cannot provide the specific risk level for every activity in every community. It is important to consider your own personal situation and the risk to you, your family, and your community before venturing out.

Please follow the link to view a news segment that aired yesterday on ABC News regarding updated CDC guidance.

<https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/biden-touts-stunning-progress-covid-fight-outdoor-mask/story?id=77344531>

As always, we extend our deepest gratitude to each one of you for your unwavering support throughout the last year of this public health crisis.

We at UCP Seguin are *springing ahead into the light!*

IF YOU HAVE NOT YET BEEN VACCINATED AGAINST COVID-19, WE ARE ASKING YOU TO PLEASE GET YOUR SHOT! THE BENEFITS OF BEING VACCINATED EXPONENTIALLY

OUTWEIGH THE RISK OF ANY SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS! BEING VACCINATED IS THE MOST POWERFUL WAY THAT YOU CAN PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR LOVED ONES FROM COVID-19. THE SOONER WE ALL ARE VACCINATED, THE SOONER WE CAN RESUME OUR NORMAL LIVES!

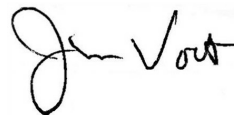
Be Well,



Michelle Sanders



Joe Mengoni



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Support the Spring Into The Light Appeal



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