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Jan. 10, 2022

To: Individuals, families, providers and partners
From: Lilia Teninty, Director, Office of Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS)
Subject: Latest COVID-19 news including testing kits, booster doses

Cases of COVID-19 are rising dramatically nationally and now in Oregon. This message is to inform everyone in the intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) system of the latest resources and information.

First, our best line of defense against serious disease from the Omicron variant is to complete a vaccination series, get a booster dose, wear a well-fitting mask when away from home and limit gatherings.

Second, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also recently authorized the following guidance for those who received the Pfizer vaccine for their initial series:

- [Expand booster doses](#) to children 12 through 15 years old.
- Shorten the time between the primary vaccine series of Pfizer and a booster dose to [five months](#).
- Allow for a [third primary series dose](#) for certain immunocompromised children ages 5 through 11.

Booster doses are important to protect against severe disease from the Omicron variant of COVID-19. OHA has set up several [high-volume vaccination clinics](#) across the state. Other ways to get a vaccination or booster dose:

- Call your doctor's office;
- Text ORCOVID to 898211 (English and Spanish) or email ORCOVID@211info.org (language help available);

- Call 211 or 1-866-698-6155, toll-free, 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily, including holidays; or
- Search for a site or provider near you on the [Get Vaccinated Oregon locator map](#).

Third, Oregon has purchased six million at-home test kits for COVID-19 that will be distributed throughout January. Each kit comes with two rapid tests, totaling 12 million kits to be distributed for free to Oregonians.

People with I/DD who are Oregon Health Plan (OHP) members can access up to four COVID-18 testing kits per month for free. Details are in this [flyer from OHP](#) but here are some basics to know:

- Testing kits are free for OHP members.
- If you're seeking an at-home test kit, first check with your local pharmacies. Let the pharmacy know you are an OHP member.
- If your local pharmacy is sold out of testing kits, Local Public Health Authorities (LPHAs) are an option. Please work with your Services Coordinator or Personal Agent to get testing kits from your LPHA.
- Providers and Case Management Entities should connect with their Local Public Health Authority about obtaining testing kits for people in services.

General information, including where to find physical testing locations, is online at the [Oregon Health Authority's website](#).

OHA has an [online technical assistance form](#) where providers, case management entities or individuals/families can request assistance getting access to the COVID-19 vaccine and boosters. Specifically, this form is for providers of group homes with residents and staff that need vaccine assistance, or people receiving in-home services who, for whatever reason, cannot leave their home for a vaccine.

I highly encourage everyone eligible to get a booster to protect yourself, your family and your coworkers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Tilia".

Lilia Teninty
Director
Office of Developmental Disabilities Services

Previous ODDS Director's Messages are available at
[http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/SENIORS-
DISABILITIES/DD/Pages/messages.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/SENIORS-DISABILITIES/DD/Pages/messages.aspx)

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