

# New Paradigms for Prevention

For more information, please visit [tellourstories.com/newparadigmsforprevention](https://tellourstories.com/newparadigmsforprevention)

After two years of fighting COVID-19, we know that variants and surges will continue. By understanding how to use available data, we can predict when cases may increase or decrease throughout the United States and protect those still vulnerable to severe disease.

## What We Have Learned

- Individuals who have had COVID-19 **can** be reinfected.
- Vaccines protect against severe disease **but not infection**.
- Herd immunity **cannot** be obtained with current vaccines.
- COVID-19 vaccines are still **working** and **preventing** severe disease and death.

## Recognize that...

- Current vaccines' **effectiveness wanes** over time, especially among the elderly and those with weakened immune systems. Remember that seniors were in the first group to be vaccinated.
- For adolescents and young adults, vaccines have been shown to **significantly protect** against long COVID-19 (symptoms continuing for four or more weeks).
- CDC **updated guidance** on March 30, 2022: "adults ages 50 years and older who are not moderately or severely immunocompromised may choose to receive a second booster dose using an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine at least 4 months after the first booster dose."
- CDC guidance noted that older adults are more likely to get very sick from COVID-19. **Very sick** is defined as: hospitalization, intensive care, using a ventilator to breathe, or death. These risks increase for people in their 50s and beyond.



**Seniors 85 and older are the most likely to become very sick – almost half of all people who live in nursing homes.**

**Resource:** <https://www.healthinaging.org/age-friendly-healthcare-you/care-settings/nursing-homes>

# Adjusting To New Realities

**If the virus is actively circulating within your community...vaccination and boosting won't be enough!**

- Every senior care community can build confidence by creating an environment with multiple layers of protection.
- Building mitigation efforts should be linked to the level of COVID-19 spread in your community and individualized based on the level of risk.
- COVID-19 moves in predictable geographic patterns related to increased indoor activities. Accept the potential for summer (South) and winter (North) surge in cases and **strategically control the impact** by:
  - Increasing mask usage and proactive testing 2x a week during a surge
  - Improving indoor air quality
  - Limiting exposure to all untested individuals
  - Providing access to antivirals and monoclonal antibodies

## Advocating For Senior Care

Current vaccines against nasal SARS-CoV-2 infections remain less effective, as asymptomatic transmission and vaccine-breakthrough infections occur. An effective vaccine must induce mucosal immunity for nasal prevention of COVID-19. Preventive medication along with vaccines could potentially prevent infection and variant transmission.

**The senior care industry must engage with pharmaceutical companies and lawmakers to advocate for new drugs and approaches against COVID-19 now.**

For additional questions, please direct inquiries to [seniorlivingadvocacy@directsupply.com](mailto: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 medical advancements and funding for senior care.

**Join the conversation!** You play a direct role in preparing, preventing, and protecting our nation's seniors against recurrent COVID-19 variants and surges. Control over the virus is possible. Shine a light on your courageous team members and tell us the challenges you continue to face in your community.

**Share your story on social media using #SeniorVoices or submit your story on [TellOurStories.com/newparadigmsforprevention](https://TellOurStories.com/newparadigmsforprevention)**