



JB Pritzker, Governor
Paula A. Basta, M.Div., Director

Respect for Yesterday
Support for Today
Plan for Tomorrow

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**Find A Vaccine
Location**

IDoA COVID-19 Resources

October 19, 2021

Dear Aging Network:

As COVID continues to impact our daily lives, vaccination remains the best defense against the virus and its variants. Thanks to vaccines, many of us are looking forward to [safe celebrations](#) with loved ones this holiday season—a welcome change from last year's Zoom gatherings.

Our Aging Network assisted over 156,000 older adults with the vaccination registration process earlier this year. I'm so proud of this number—it's a remarkable demonstration of the strength of our network and a testament to your hard work! Now, with older adults starting to hit the six-month mark since their second injection, we need to prepare for the next phase of COVID-19 boosters.

CDC recommendations are changing frequently, and it can be hard to keep up with the latest guidance around who is eligible for a booster, and where and how to get it. To help clarify some of the confusion, I recently joined Illinois Department of Public Health Director Dr. Ezike and AARP Illinois State Director Bob Gallo for a [telephone town hall](#). IDoA is also collaborating with the Department of Public Health to create an informational flyer about COVID vaccine booster shots to share with all providers. We hope to have it ready for print in the next few days. In the meantime, please continue to reference the [CDC website](#) for the latest on boosters, and don't miss Governor Pritzker's press conference today at 9:30 a.m. at <https://www.Illinois.gov/LiveVideo>.

Aside from our booster shot town hall, I also recently partnered with AARP Illinois for a virtual press conference to unveil a new, ground-breaking report – [Disrupting Disparities: Solutions for LGBTQ Illinoisans Age 50+](#). This report outlines the major challenges and disparities faced by LGBTQ older adults in Illinois and how the Aging Network can ensure they have access to the services they need to age with dignity. You can read it in full at the link above, or check out the [media coverage](#) of our October 5 press event.

We want Illinois to continue to be one of the best places in the nation to live and thrive as one ages, regardless of where you live in the state, who you are, or who you love. I look forward to working with AARP Illinois, SAGE, our LGBTQ community partners, and members of the Aging Network to implement many of the recommendations in the report.

Finally, while I can't announce the winners just yet, I'm excited to let you know that IDoA is preparing to present the 2021 Senior Illinoisan Hall of Fame and Governor's Engaging Aging awards at local ceremonies in November. It's a true honor to recognize some of the older adults and organizations that have made a significant impact on their community.

At the same time, IDoA is saddened to learn of the death of a [2019 Hall of Fame Inductee](#), Timuel Black, who passed away at age 102. A renowned civil rights icon, educator, and historian, Timuel fought for fairness for the African American community at large and is recognized as a pioneer in the independent Black political movement in Chicago. May his legacy live on for generations to come.



I know I continue to say this, but IDoA is so fortunate to have the force of the Aging Network behind our efforts to serve, support, and celebrate older adults across the state. Thank you for your dedication to this work, and please continue to stay safe and well.

Sincerely,

Paula Basta, M.Div.
Director, Illinois Department on Aging

The Illinois Department on Aging does not discriminate in admission to programs or treatment of employment in programs or activities in compliance with appropriate State and Federal statutes. If you feel you have been discriminated against, call the **Senior HelpLine** at **(800) 252-8966; (888) 206-1327 (TTY)**

