For the past few years based on extensive research, our late NJLBHA attorney, Mr. Michael Richmond, and I developed a plan for the creation of Local Advisory Boards of Health where circumstances of government structure are able to support such an activity. This work was done in conjunction with Sustainable Jersey and with the leadership of the Camden County Health Department. As of September 1, 2022, the Orientation Manual for Boards of Health which is found on our website www.njlbha.org has been updated to include Annex A, 5 pages in length at the back of the Manual, which provides information as to why and how advisory boards may be created and further includes a draft ordinance to accomplish this. Sustainable Jersey has created awards of gold star points for the implementation of required public health structure and activities including the recognition of Advisory Boards when appropriate.
The risk of significant illness, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19 has been drastically reduced as a result of high levels of vaccine- and infection-induced immunity, and the availability of effective treatments and tools for prevention. It is still necessary, however, to protect persons most at risk for severe illness through the use of COVID-19 vaccines, well-fitting masks or respirators, preexposure prophylaxis if indicated, and antivirals. Persons who live in a household or who have contact with others at increased risk of severe illness are recommended to self-test in an effort to detect infection before contact, be up to date on their COVID-19 vaccines, and use a well-fitting mask or respirator.
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