

Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care Program for COVID-19 Vaccination

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HHS/CDC is partnering with **CVS, Walgreens, and select pharmacies in the Managed Health Care Associates (MHA) network** to offer on-site COVID-19 vaccination services for residents of nursing homes and assisted living facilities once vaccination is recommended for them.

The **Pharmacy Partnership for Long-term Care (LTC) Program** will facilitate safe vaccination of this critical patient population, while reducing the burden on LTC facilities (LTCF) and health departments. The program provides end-to-end management of the COVID-19 vaccination process, including cold chain management, on-site vaccinations, and fulfillment of reporting requirements at no cost to facilities. LTCF staff who have not received COVID-19 vaccine can also be vaccinated as part of the program. This program is being implemented in close coordination with jurisdictions, LTCFs, federal partners, such as the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), and professional organizations, including the American Health Care Association (AHCA) and Leading Age, with members representing both nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

As part of this program, which is free of charge to facilities, the federal pharmacy partner will:

- Schedule and coordinate on-site clinic dates directly with each facility.
- Order vaccines and associated supplies (e.g., syringes, needles, personal protective equipment).
- Ensure cold chain management for vaccine.
- Provide on-site administration of vaccine to all residents and any staff not already vaccinated.
- Report required vaccination data to the local, state/territorial, and federal jurisdictions within 72 hours of administering each dose.
- Adhere to all applicable CMS COVID-19 testing requirements for LTCF staff.

Program Planning

In November, LTC facilities had the opportunity to sign up for the program and select a pharmacy partner. CDC has worked with jurisdictions to match facilities with their requested pharmacy partner; in some instances, adjustments have been made to reassign facility selections to account for logistics and program needs. Pharmacy partners have started reaching out to participating LTCFs they were matched with to coordinate vaccination efforts. Clinic dates may not be scheduled until after a jurisdiction activates the program. CDC expects the program services to continue on-site at participating facilities for approximately two months from the date of the first vaccination clinic. After the initial phase of vaccinations, facilities may continue working with the federal pharmacy partner it was matched with or shift to another pharmacy provider that is enrolled with the state to provide COVID-19 vaccine.

Program Activation

In early stages of vaccine roll out, **jurisdictions will need to consider various factors when making the decision to activate the LTCF program:** the goals and desired impacts of their immunization program, the priority groups for vaccination, and supply (the allocation of doses a jurisdiction has available and the amount required for the LTCF program).

Jurisdictions will need to provide a **two week notice** to begin the LTCF program. This will allow for participating pharmacy partners to prepare to administer vaccine and coordinate vaccination activities with facilities assigned to them. The program is split into two components. Part A includes vaccination of skilled nursing facilities, and Part B includes vaccination of the remaining facilities enrolled in the program. CDC will provide each jurisdiction with an estimated number of doses needed to cover the skilled nursing facilities (Part A) and other facilities (Part B) enrolled in the program.

Once a jurisdiction is ready to start the LTCF program, the state health officer or designee must email CDC's pharmacy team (eocevent494@cdc.gov) to provide notice. CDC will work with the jurisdiction to begin transferring vaccine doses from state allocation to the LTCF program and its pharmacy partners. CDC will coordinate with each jurisdiction to transfer the right amount of doses in Tiberius every week that are needed to support the program. Jurisdictions may choose to start the program with just skilled nursing facilities (Part A) and will only need to transfer enough allocation to cover those facilities. Jurisdictions will be **required to have at least 50% of the needed doses available to cover Part A within a week after providing notice to activate**. After the program starts, over the following two weeks, jurisdictions will need to ensure the remaining doses are available for transfer. If a jurisdiction decides to activate both Part A and Part B at once, the doses to support all LTCFs would be needed as outlined above.

For questions about the Pharmacy Partnership for Long-term Care Program, please contact eocevent494@cdc.gov.