



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
Aging and Long-Term Support Administration
PO Box 45600, Olympia, Washington 98504-5600

October 23, 2020

ALTA: ALF #2020-050
ALTA: AFH #2020-052
ALTA: CCRSS #2020-038
ALTA: ICF/IID #2020-040
ALTA: ESF #2020-039

**PHARMACY PARTNERSHIP FOR LONG-TERM CARE PROGRAM
FOR COVID-19 VACCINATION**

Dear Administrators, Superintendents, or Providers:

The COVID-19 pandemic has been an unprecedented challenge to residential care settings, and approximately 30% of deaths from COVID-19 have occurred in congregate care facilities. A vaccine for COVID-19 is in the late stages of development, and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has collaborated with CVS and Walgreens to offer on-site COVID-19 vaccinations to these settings, once vaccination is recommended and available.

The program is free to facilities, homes, and programs. The pharmacy will schedule and coordinate the vaccination process directly with each. The pharmacy will manage obtaining the vaccine and supplies, storage of the vaccine, administration of the vaccine, and billing.

Please note: Signing up *does not* mean you will receive vaccine. CMS and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are awaiting Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP, a committee within CDC) recommendations regarding which settings will be the populations of focus for the vaccine. Signing up *does* ensure you have a plan in place to be contacted by CVS or Walgreens when the vaccine is available.

If a facility, home, or program is interested in participating, they should sign up or opt out starting October 19. **Sign up will remain open for two weeks starting October 19.**

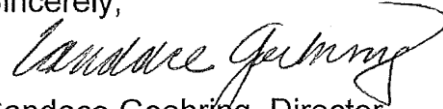
- Enroll via this online form link: <https://redcap.link/LTCF>. Please note: the link is case sensitive.
 - You will not receive a confirmation email after enrolling.
 - CDC will communicate this information to your chosen pharmacy provider.
 - When it is time to schedule on-site clinics, CVS or Walgreens will reach out directly to the home to coordinate.
 - If you have more than 5 non-CMS certified facilities you would like to enroll, a bulk entry template is available via the REDCap link. Please return the bulk entry template to this email address: eocevent494@cdc.gov.
- Facilities must indicate which pharmacy partner (one of two large retail pharmacies or existing LTC pharmacy) they prefer to have on-site. Reassignment to another provider may occur, depending on vaccination availability and distribution considerations.

The on-site services program will last for approximately two months. After that, each facility can choose to continue working with CVS or Walgreens, or can work with a pharmacy provider of its choice.

Dear Administrator/Superintendent /Provider: Pharmacy Partnership for LTC COVID-19 Vaccine
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For questions about the Pharmacy Partnership for Long-term Care Program, please contact eocevent494@cdc.gov. For more information, please see the Communication Package document below. The communication package is labeled for Assisted Living Facilities, but has valuable information for all care settings. Additionally, reference the related [Frequently Asked Questions](#) and the [October 16, 2020 Health and Human Services Press Release](#).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Candace Goehring". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Candace Goehring, Director
Residential Care Services

DSHS: "Transforming Lives"

CDC COMMUNICATION PARTNER PACKAGE FOR ASSISTED LIVING FACILITIES

Email from Partners to Members:

Dear [Member],

COVID-19 vaccine(s) will likely become available in phases over the coming months. Early phases may include vaccination of long-term care facility (LTCF) staff as part of an overall healthcare personnel (HCP) recommendation, followed by vaccination of LTCF residents.

The **Pharmacy Partnership for Long-term Care Program** provides end-to-end management of the COVID-19 vaccination process, including cold chain management, on-site vaccinations, and fulfillment of reporting requirements, to facilitate safe and effective vaccination of this patient population, while reducing burden on facilities and jurisdictional health departments. LTCFs will have the option of partnering with CVS or Walgreens to receive COVID-19 vaccine and provide on-site COVID-19 vaccination services for residents. Staff who were not previously vaccinated (e.g., through state vaccination programs) would also be eligible to be vaccinated through this option.

The Pharmacy Partnership for Long-term Care Program provides critical vaccination services and is free of charge to facilities. As part of this program, the pharmacy will:

- Schedule and coordinate on-site clinic date(s) directly with each facility. Three total visits over approximately two months are likely to be needed to administer both doses of vaccine (if indicated) and vaccinate any new residents and staff.
- Order vaccines and associated supplies (e.g., syringes, needles, personal protective equipment).
- Ensure cold chain management for vaccine.
- Provide on-site administration of vaccine.
- Report required vaccination data (approximately 20 data fields) to the local, state/territorial, and federal public health authorities within 72 hours of administering each dose.
- Adhere to all applicable Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services requirements for COVID-19 testing for LTCF staff.

Alternatively, facilities that choose not to participate in the **Pharmacy Partnership for Long-term Care Program** should be prepared to have resources to address all aspects of COVID-19 vaccination, through state and/or other resources. If a facility chooses to obtain vaccine and provide vaccination services outside this program, they will be responsible for all aspects of vaccine access, storage, handling, administration, and required reporting to public health authorities. It is important to note that COVID-19 vaccine will have unique supply chain, ordering, storage, handling, administration, and reporting requirements in comparison to other vaccines such as the flu vaccine, which many LTCF are more familiar.

CDC is asking all LTCFs to make their selection for vaccine supply and vaccination services starting October 19, 2020 using this link: <https://redcap.link/LTCF>. The form will remain open for two weeks.

When completing the form, facilities will need to indicate participation in the Pharmacy Partnership for Long-term Care Program and their preferred provider. If opting to not participate in the program, facilities must indicate their alternate plan for securing vaccine supply and vaccinating residents.

The decision is not binding and can be changed during the two weeks the form is open. Any changes after that will need to be coordinated directly with CVS or Walgreens.

For questions specific to the Pharmacy Partnership for Long-term Care Program, please contact eoevent494@cdc.gov.

Drop-In Article:

Is Your Facility Prepared for the COVID-19 Vaccine? Understanding the Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care Program

Be Prepared to Protect Residents.

Immunization with a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine is a critical component of our nation's [strategy](#) to reduce COVID-19 related illness, hospitalizations, and deaths. Early in the COVID-19 Vaccination Program, there may be a limited supply of COVID-19 vaccine and vaccination efforts may focus on those critical to the response, those providing direct care, and those at highest risk for developing severe illness from COVID-19. This includes long-term care facility residents (i.e., nursing home, assisted living facility, and independent living facility residents). It is important that facilities recognize that these vaccines, once available, will have requirements for storage, handling, administration, and reporting that are more stringent than those for seasonal influenza vaccine and other vaccines.

Know Your Options.

All long-term care settings have an option to enroll in the **Pharmacy Partnership for Long-term Care Program**. Through this program, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has engaged pharmacy partners to secure vaccine and provide on-site vaccination of residents in nursing homes, at no cost to the facility. This program provides end-to-end management of the COVID-19 vaccination process, including cold chain management, on-site vaccinations, and fulfillment of reporting requirements, to facilitate safe and effective vaccination of this patient population, while reducing burden on facilities and jurisdictional health departments.

Facilities are being asked to enroll in the program or opt out and indicate an alternate plan for vaccinating residents.

Starting October 19, 2020, ALFs will receive a link to an online sign-up to report how they would like to receive COVID-19 vaccine and vaccination services. This includes an option for partnering with a federally designated pharmacy partner of your choice (CVS or Walgreens) that will be responsible for end-to-end management of vaccine procurement and administration services for your facility.

Make Your Choice Today! Be Prepared to Protect Residents.

Sample Social Media:

Twitter: It's time to prepare for the safe and rapid dissemination of #COVID19 vaccine to long-term care residents, once available. It is important for facilities to know their options and enroll or opt out of CDC's Pharmacy Partnership for Long-term Care today! <https://redcap.link/LTCF>

Facebook: It's time to prepare for the safe and rapid dissemination of a COVID-19 vaccine to long-term care residents, once available. It is important for facilities to know their options and enroll or opt out of CDC's Pharmacy Partnership for Long-term Care today. Pharmacy partners will provide on-site COVID-19 vaccination of residents in LTCFs, at no cost to the facility. This program provides end-to-end management of the COVID-19 vaccination process, including cold chain management, on-site vaccinations, and fulfillment of reporting requirements. Sign up via REDcap! <https://redcap.link/LTCF>