

## CDC Communication Partner Package for Skilled Nursing 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 is free of charge to facilities. As part of this program, CVS or Walgreens 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 via the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN). 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.

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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](mailto: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, nursing homes will be able to sign up via the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) for how they would like to receive COVID-19 vaccine and vaccination service. 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.**

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### 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! Sign up via NHSN! <https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/index.html>

**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 the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN)! <https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/index.html>