COVID-19 Vaccine Access for Long-Term Care

**Goal:**
Continue to protect those who are disproportionately affected by COVID-19—especially residents of Long-Term Care settings (e.g., nursing homes, assisted living, residential care communities, group homes, and senior housing).

All LTC settings that request assistance accessing COVID-19 vaccines for their residents and staff will receive the support they need.
COVID-19 Vaccine Access for Long-Term Care

This approach provides maximum flexibility for different long-term care settings depending on their specific staff/residents’ needs:

- Existing local pharmacy provider, retail pharmacy clinics  OR  On-site clinics

Why is this approach different from the Winter 2020-21 Rollout?

- Why take a different approach?
  - Supply for vaccine is not constrained like it was in winter 2020-21
  - Many facilities already have strategies and partnerships in place to access COVID-19 vaccine
  - Expanded pharmacy partners to do onsite vaccination clinics
  - Convenient access to vaccine in communities, including +40K pharmacy locations

- Program is designed to ensure that the needs for different types of LTC settings are met. Needs will vary based on size, ability of the population to leave a facility, geographic locations (rural, urban), etc.
CDC Actions

- **Outreach to Jurisdictions**
  - Calls/listening **readiness sessions** with HHS regions; **follow-up ongoing** with some states to prepare them to be first-line safety net support for LTC settings
  - Jurisdictional Checklist/readiness survey on booster vaccine access planning
  - Skilled Nursing Facility verification survey and NHSN¹ weekly monitoring

- **Outreach to Pharmacy partners**
  - Weekly calls with **all 21 pharmacy partners** to ensure readiness to provide clinics (and prioritization of LTC settings)

- **Outreach to LTC settings/LTC partners/Federal partners**
  - **Email blast** to all 37,000 LTC settings from primary series Federal Retail Pharmacy Partnership that included a survey to indicate a need for additional assistance.
  - Regular calls with LTC partners (AHCA, Leading Age) and Federal Partners (ACL, CMS, etc.)

- **Additional CDC support**
  - Developed a website: [https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/long-term-care/pharmacy-partnerships.html](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/long-term-care/pharmacy-partnerships.html)

  **Note:** CDC will connect LTC settings with pharmacy partners as an additional safety net support

¹ National Healthcare Safety Network
LTC Providers Actions

- **Vaccination in the Local Community:**
  - Let residents and staff know that they can receive a COVID-19 vaccine at an existing vaccine site (e.g., a nearby pharmacy or healthcare provider’s office)
  - For residents and staff who are willing and able to travel to a vaccine site, this may be the **fastest way** to get vaccinated

- **Vaccination onsite in LTC setting**
  - May be the best option to meet LTC resident needs
  - LTC providers should contact long-term care pharmacy, local retail pharmacy, or other vaccine provider to arrange for an on-site vaccination clinic

If LTCs are having difficulties contact state or local health department’s immunization program your first-line of safety net support

CDC support is available as the safety net through CDC-INFO helpline

Jurisdiction Actions

State and local jurisdictions play a critical role as the first-level safety net support in ensuring LTC settings have the vaccine access and support they need.

- States should be actively developing a robust booster rollout plan, communicating with the LTC settings they worked with for primary series vaccination, in addition to new sites to identify potential areas/sites requiring additional assistance

- If jurisdiction is contacted by a LTC provider, review the Options for Coordinating Access to COVID-19 Vaccines with them, on CDC website

- State or jurisdictions can use the Tiberius application to submit requests to CDC for assistance. More information on this process will be shared as soon as it’s available

- CDC support is available if the immunization program is unable to connect LTC setting with vaccine provider
LTC COVID-19 Vaccination Data Reporting

- Pharmacy partners will continue to submit patient vaccination data to jurisdiction immunization information systems (IIS) and directly to CDC
  - Includes data for adults aged over 65 years
- Pharmacy partners will also collect facility level data for onsite clinics (weekly)
  - Elements reported: facility name, city, state, # doses administered and date of clinic
  - Will only include data from when pharmacies go to a facility to administer doses
  - Data will be shared with CDC
  - Jurisdictions will have access to this data in Tiberius
- SNFs report estimates of vaccine coverage of residents and staff available in NHSN\(^1\)
  - NHSN adding data elements on booster/additional doses
  - Weekly reports are sent to jurisdictions
- Jurisdictions will have visibility on the progress of LTC requests sent to CDC as part of USG “Safety Net”

\(^1\) National Healthcare Safety Network

For more information, contact CDC
1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)

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The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.