

Date: December 23, 2020

To: All Nursing Facilities
All Assisted Living Facilities
All Residential Care Facilities
All Adult Foster Homes



From: Jack Honey, Administrator
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RE: Update on COVID-19 vaccine roll-out plan for long-term care facilities

Long-term care facility staff and residents in Oregon began receiving the COVID-19 vaccine on December 21, 2020, as part of the federal [Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care Program](#). This provider alert summarizes what facilities need to know now about the program. **More detailed information will be provided as the plan rolls out in coming weeks.**

The vaccination plan is being led by the US. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in partnership with Walgreens, CVS and Consonus. The Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS), Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and local public health officials are supporting the roll-out of the plan. ODHS and OHA in October had notified long-term care facilities and adult foster homes that their residents and employees could receive no-cost COVID-19 vaccinations, when the vaccine became available, as part of the partnership. Facilities and adult foster homes were asked to register with the program.

Facilities registered with the program – starting with nursing facilities - are being contacted by Walgreens, CVS, or Consonus with information on when and how on-site vaccination clinics will be set up at their facilities. Facilities are being contacted in order of priority based on the roll out schedule.

In future communication, ODHS will provide information on how Oregon facilities that are not yet registered will be included in the program.

Here are answers to frequently asked questions about the Phase 1 roll out for long-term care facilities:

Q: Our facility registered to be part of the vaccination program, but I haven't received information about when or how this will happen. Where do I go to get information and/or when will I receive information?

A: Walgreens, CVS and Consonus will be connecting with facilities that signed up and will start their outreach with nursing facilities. During the federal registration process, facilities selected a pharmacy partner. Please reach out to that partner for more information. Below is their contact information.

- CVS/Omnicare: CovidVaccineClinicsLTcf@CVSHealth.com
- Walgreens: immunizeLTC@walgreens.com
- Consonus Healthcare: www.consonushealth.com/contact-us/

Q: My facility didn't register – and wasn't aware our facility needed to do this – what do I do now to be included?

A: State officials are reviewing the list of participating facilities in the federal vaccine program. The state is still working to assess how to support providers who were not eligible or did not register for the program. If you haven't registered with the federal program, and state assistance, please sign up using [this link](#).

Q: What is the division of labor with these vaccination clinics; in other words, what specifically will my facility be asked to do so I can prepare and line up resources?

A: The pharmacy partner will indicate what support they need from you. Pharmacy partners have also made some information available online that may give you a clearer understanding of the roles and expectations. Learn more about your pharmacy program:

- CVS/Omnicare: www.omnicare.com/covid-19-vaccine-resource
- Walgreens: www.walgreens.com/topic/findcare/long-term-care-facility-covid-vaccine.jsp#faq
- Consonus: www.consonushealth.com/covid-19-pharmacy-updates/

Q: Will CVS, Walgreens and Consonus supply information to our residents in advance to answer their questions?

A: Yes. Facilities can ask the federal pharmacy partners for information to share with residents. More information about this will be available in future communications.

Q: How are you coordinating with residents' health care providers?

A: Residents will receive a card indicating their receipt of a vaccine. The responsibility is on the facility and the resident to inform their healthcare provider. The federal pharmacy program and clinics are conducted independently from a patient's general healthcare services.

Below are answers to frequently asked questions that your residents and their families may ask:

Q: Are all residents mandated to receive the vaccine? And, how is my health care provider involved in this decision?

A: OHA does not plan to mandate receipt of the COVID-19 vaccination. We strongly recommend vaccination for the safety and health of the entire community. While written consent is not required by federal Law for COVID-19 vaccination in the United States, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has asked the three pharmacies participating in the federal Pharmacy Partnership program (Consonus, CVS, Walgreens) to develop and use consent forms and require written consent from recipients before vaccination. Facilities may obtain verbal consent and document it on behalf of residents if needed.

Q: Do I get to choose which vaccine I receive?

A: No. Oregon has prioritized the Pfizer vaccine for the federal pharmacy partnership program. At this time CVS, Walgreens and Consonus will be holding clinics at facilities where they provide only the Pfizer vaccine. As vaccine supply varies in the coming months Moderna, or other vaccine products, may be allocated to this program.

Q: If I have already had COVID-19, do I still need to get the vaccine?

A: Yes. COVID-19 vaccination should be offered to persons regardless of a history of COVID-19 infection, with or without symptoms.

Q: I have more health questions about the vaccine, where do I go for more information?

A: The Oregon Health Authority [COVID-19 vaccine website](#). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [COVID-19 Vaccine website](#) and your health care provider are resources that will provide you with COVID-19 Vaccine facts you need.

Other resources:

- OHA shared information about the first phase of the vaccine roll out in [this press release](#).
- OHA and ODHS shared information about the long-term care facility roll out in [this press release](#).
- General information for providers is available in this [OHA Provider toolkit](#).
- CDC released a summary of the [benefits of COVID-19 vaccination](#) based on what we currently know. CDC will continue to update this page as more data become available.
- CDC released information to [bust myths and misconceptions](#) about COVID-29 vaccination.
- COVID-19 vaccine-related questions may be sent to covid19.vaccine@dhsosha.state.or.us