

Accessing COVID-19 Vaccine in Long Term Care

After the Long Term Care (LTC) Pharmacy Partnership Program finishes their third clinics, LTC facilities (skilled nursing, assisted living, ID/DD, and other congregate care settings) will need to secure access to vaccine for new residents, staff, and those who did not get vaccinated initially. To secure access to COVID-19 vaccine, AHCA/NCAL recommends following the steps below.

- 1. Determine which LTC pharmacies in your area are offering COVID-19 vaccine.**
 - To offer vaccine, they must have signed a provider agreement in your state AND be enrolled in the state immunization registry (IIS). **Make sure to verify this.**
 - If they are unable to offer vaccine, call around to other LTC pharmacies.
 - The American Society of Consultant Pharmacists has developed a [pharmacy locator](#) for COVID-19 access that providers can use to help identify a pharmacy. This locator only includes pharmacies registered with the federal program, so there may be additional LTC pharmacies signed up in your state.
- 2. Determine how you will receive and administer COVID-19 vaccine in your center.**
 - Once you identify a LTC pharmacy with access to COVID-19 vaccine, you will need to determine how you will receive and administer the vaccine to your residents and staff.
 - There are three potential models for this.
 1. *The pharmacy brings vaccine to your center and administers it to residents and staff.* In this scenario, the LTC pharmacy retains all responsibilities for wastage, transportation, storage, and reporting.
 2. *The pharmacy offers a subcontract model where they subcontract facility staff to administer the vaccine on their behalf.* In this scenario, the LTC pharmacy retains all responsibilities for wastage, transportation, storage, and reporting.
 3. *The pharmacy offers a distribution agreement where they order and deliver doses of the vaccine to the LTC facility, but then hands-off responsibility to the facility.* In this scenario, the LTC facility is responsible for wastage and reporting, but may not be responsible for storage.
 - The LTC facility may also bill for the COVID-19 vaccine administration under this scenario. For more information, see AHCA/NCAL's [COVID-19 Vaccine Coverage and Billing Guidance](#).
 - This means you must enroll in the state IIS and sign a provider agreement in your state. See step three for more information.
- 3. Determine if you need to become a vaccine provider in your state.**
 - If you are going to store or administer the vaccine (unless you are working under a subcontracting agreement), then you must become a vaccine provider in your state.
 - This requires you to enroll and use the state IIS.
 - Make sure to carefully review the requirements, particularly around storage and reporting, and make sure you can meet them.

- Contact your [state immunization office](#) for more information.
- Regardless of how you get the vaccine now, you will likely need to sign up as a vaccine provider and enroll in the state IIS in the future. Providers should consider beginning this process now.

4. Develop plans to avoid vaccine wastage.

- Vaccine wastage is a top priority for states and the federal government.
- Once a vial of COVID-19 vaccine is opened, you only have six hours to administer all the doses in the vial, which is dependent on the vaccine.
 - Moderna – 10 doses/vial
 - Pfizer – 5 doses/vial
 - Johnson & Johnson – 5 doses/vial
- Develop a process to make sure you have the right number of people ready for each vaccine clinic, depending on which vaccine you are using. You may want to work with other LTC facilities in your geographic area to run a coordinated clinic to meet the minimum number of people/doses.

What if I cannot find an LTC pharmacy to deliver vaccine?

- If you cannot locate an LTC pharmacy with vaccine, you should:
 - Call your state public health agency and your state immunization program to see if there are any state specific programs for ordering the vaccine or entities that will come and administer the vaccine to your residents or staff.
 - Determine whether you can order, store, and administer vaccine directly by enrolling in the state IIS and sign a vaccine provider agreement.

Contact covid19@ahca.org with any questions.

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