

COVID-19 Vaccine Management Plan for Long Term Care Facilities

In Virginia, CVS and Walgreens are concluding their vaccination clinics for Long Term Care Facilities and other senior living communities, ICF/IDs, and other long-term residential settings (collectively referred to as LTCF hereafter).

Ongoing vaccination needs within these LCTFs exist for multiple reasons including first doses offered at the final CVS/Walgreens clinic (requiring a follow-up second dose from another provider), staff or resident turnover, and facilities who were not originally included in the CVS/Walgreens Federal Pharmacy Partnership Program.

To meet this ongoing need, The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) is operating the LTCF Vaccine Bridge Program.

LTCF Vaccine Bridge Program

The mission of this bridge program (sometimes also called LTC Maintenance Program for Senior Living) is to support the LTCFs for ongoing needs between the end of the CVS/Walgreens arrangement and the inclusion of the COVID-19 vaccine in their normal pharmacy infrastructure.

The bridge program has two main parts:

- 1. Connect pharmacies to LTCFs to meet ongoing needs as soon as possible.**
- 2. Enroll LTC pharmacies and LTCFs as appropriate to enable the standard LTC pharmacy infrastructure to manage this ongoing need.**

Part 1: Connecting pharmacies to LTCFs to meet ongoing needs

Reporting Ongoing Needs:

LTCFs will communicate their needs to VDH through their contracted pharmacy provider and/or the current REDCap intake form (<https://redcap.link/VaccineLTCFs.Virginia.gov>). As of March 9, the intake form is the best mechanism for reporting needs. As we continue to coordinate with LTC pharmacies, however, they will be able to assist with reporting and meeting your needs.

Meeting Ongoing Needs:

VDH is working with [Managed Health Care Associates, Inc. \(MHA\) Pharmacy Network](#) which represents several pharmacy groups in VA that are willing and able to provide vaccines for LTCs across the Commonwealth until we can complete Part 2 of the LTCF Bridge Program.

Expectations:

Every effort will be made to ensure any second dose vaccination is administered on or around the recommended time frame (21 days for Pfizer, 28 days for Moderna). Be advised, the CDC has stated that this inter-dose interval can be extended out to at least 42 days without any concern for needing to restart the vaccine series.

Part 2: Enroll LTC pharmacies and LTCFs as vaccine providers to Incorporate the COVID-19 Vaccine into the pre-existing LTC pharmacy infrastructure

LTC facilities (LTCFs) may coordinate directly with LTC pharmacies. LTC pharmacies generally act as distributors to LTCFs and do not administer vaccines themselves and instead rely on the LTCF nursing staff to administer the vaccine. Some LTC pharmacies may not have staffing capacity to regularly administer vaccines in LTCFs.

Therefore, any entity wishing to administer the COVID-19 vaccine must be enrolled with Virginia's COVID-19 vaccination program to ensure they can receive vaccine shipment and comply with the necessary storage, handling, use, and reporting requirements for this scarce federal resource. The enrollment process has several steps that begin with submitting the "Intent to Provide COVID-19 Vaccine" form. [More details can be found here.](#)

Enrolling LTC pharmacies as vaccine providers

Every LTC pharmacy in Virginia should complete the CDC enrollment program as outlined on the Enrollment Information document. LTC pharmacies should identify if they can provide on-site vaccination or would need to rely on either a contractual relationship or facility staff to administer the vaccine.

Enrolling LTCFs

Not every LTCF needs to enroll as a vaccine provider.

If the LTCF typically plans to receive and administer vaccines by facility nursing staff similar to how they handle other medication (including vaccines and other injectables) from a LTC pharmacy, the LTCF MUST enroll as a vaccine provider. The LTC pharmacy and facility should come to a formal agreement together on the roles and responsibilities regarding the reporting. A redistribution agreement would be needed and all components of the provider agreements must be met (e.g. cold storage, reporting requirements).

If, on the other hand, the LTCF contracts with a LTC Pharmacy Provider who comes on site at the LTCF and administers injectables and other vaccines, the LTCF does NOT need to enroll as a vaccine provider.

Additional Key Points:

- LTC pharmacies are permitted by their COVID-19 vaccination provider agreements to subcontract LTCF staff as an extension of the pharmacy agreement. This would allow LTCF staff to administer vaccines on behalf of the pharmacy and would eliminate the need for the LTCF to enroll. VDH cannot require or create these arrangements as they are between LTCFs and their contracted pharmacy providers.
- If the LTC pharmacy and the facility are both enrolled with VDH to provide COVID-19 vaccine, the LTC pharmacy will conduct a redistribution of vaccine doses to the facility for facility use. It is the responsibility of both the pharmacy and facility to comply with redistribution requirements (e.g. cold storage). It is the facility's responsibility to ensure proper reporting of administration data in VIIS.
- LTCF staff must be trained and able to prepare and administer vaccines if they will be carrying out administration.