

## Federal Long-term Care Facility (LTCF) Pharmacy Partnership Program

### Frequently Asked Questions

The information in this document will change frequently as we receive more information on this program and as the program progresses. Updated January 26, 2021.

#### **Which long-term care facilities are enrolled in this program?**

In Michigan, there are 401 skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) and 4,067 “other” additional eligible facilities enrolled in the Federal Pharmacy Partnership for Long-term Care Program (these include assisted living, CCRC, personal care homes, residential care, adult family home, adult foster home, IDD, HUD 202, Veteran's homes). The list of sites enrolled in the program is available through your local health department (LHD) and posted online at [www.michigan.gov/COVIDvaccine](http://www.michigan.gov/COVIDvaccine) under the LTC Pharmacy Partnership tab. The list of eligible facilities was provided to MDHHS from CDC from publicly available data, therefore it is possible that some facilities may be missing from this list.

#### **What facility types are ineligible for this program?**

Ineligible facilities include: adult day care, independent living facilities for children or adolescents, psychiatric rehabilitation or behavioral treatment, substance abuse rehabilitation, independent low-income housing (not HUD 202, which is included), domestic violence shelters, homeless shelters, convents, churches, schools, individual houses (i.e., not a congregate living facility), miscellaneous “community programs,” correctional facilities, home health agencies.

#### **Are the facilities aware that they are enrolled in this program?**

Due to a quick turnaround, MDHHS bulk enrolled thousands of sites into this program and therefore the facility may not be aware that they have been enrolled into the program. Once CVS and Walgreens are assigned their individual sites, they will reach out to the facilities and explain them the logistics of the program and schedule the vaccination clinics. The facility is not required to participate in the program but is strongly encouraged to do so to ensure that their staff and residents are vaccinated in a timely matter.

#### **What if we have facilities in our jurisdiction that are not enrolled in this program?**

Unfortunately, the deadline to enroll facilities into this program has passed and no other LTC facilities can be enrolled into this program. These facilities are still considered [top priority](#) for vaccination; therefore, the facilities should work closely with their [LHD](#) to organize clinics and ensure vaccination of LTC staff and residents.

**Which pharmacies are participating in this program?**

The three pharmacies that Michigan has activated for the LTC Pharmacy Partnership Program are CVS, Walgreens, and Managed Health Care Associates, Inc. (MHA).

MHA was recently added to the program to assist with completing the vaccination clinics in a timely manner. MHA is the largest network of independent long-term care pharmacies in the country. The independent long-term care pharmacies in Michigan that MHA will be utilizing for this program include: Pharmacy Care Advocates (PCA), Genoa, Guardian, and Hometown pharmacies.

**Will staff at the LTC facilities receive vaccine in addition to the residents during these clinics?**

Yes, both staff and residents on site during these clinics are eligible for vaccine through this program.

**Is there anything the LHD or LTC facility need to do at this time for enrolled facilities?**

No, there is nothing else that needs to be done by the LHD or LTC facility. CVS, Walgreens, and MHA are required to coordinate logistics with each LTC facility, order the vaccines and necessary supplies (i.e., PPE, syringes etc.), ensure cold chain management of the vaccine, adhere to all applicable CMS COVID-19 testing requirements for LTCF staff, and report vaccine administration to the MCIR and CDC to fulfill reporting requirements.

**When will these clinics start? How will they look?**

As of December 12, Michigan has activated **PART A** of this program, which includes the 401 skilled nursing facilities. Once this program is activated, pharmacy partners have approximately two weeks to begin scheduling clinics for each assigned facility. Clinics for **PART A** began on December 28, 2020 and will continue for several weeks. CDC required a two weeks' notice before clinics can begin. Corporate leadership for each pharmacy partner is deciding which individual pharmacy stores will be responsible for which facilities.

Michigan activated **PART B**, which includes the other 4,067 eligible facilities, on December 21, 2020. PART B includes assisted living, personal care homes, residential care, adult family homes, adult foster homes, HUD 202, IDD, CCRC, and Veteran's homes. Clinics for **PART B** began on January 4, 2020 and will continue for the next several weeks.

CVS, Walgreens, and MHA pharmacies plan to conduct three on-site clinics at each LTC facility to vaccinate as many residents and staff as possible. During the first clinic, the pharmacists will vaccinate all staff and residents on site. The second clinic will be held a minimum of 28 days later and the pharmacists will vaccinate staff/residents from the first clinic with their 2nd dose of COVID-19 vaccine and catch anyone they may have missed on first date with their first dose. The third clinic will occur 28 days after the 2<sup>nd</sup> clinic and pharmacies will vaccinate anyone from the second clinic that needs their 2nd dose.

**Will the pharmacists be vaccinated prior to entering the LTC facility? Will they be tested for COVID-19?**

Yes, the pharmacist vaccinators are required to adhere to all applicable CMS COVID-19 testing requirements for LTC facility staff. In addition, the pharmacists themselves will be vaccinated with the COVID-19 vaccine as part of this program.

**Which vaccine will be used in this program?**

The Moderna vaccine will be the only vaccine used throughout this program.

**If there are LTC facilities that have multiple levels of care (aka skilled nursing one floor, assisted living additional floor etc.) throughout the facility, would the pharmacists vaccinate the entire facility at once, or will they keep them separated as PART A (skilled nursing facilities) and PART B (other eligible facilities) and return to the facility 6 times etc.?**

It is possible the pharmacists will return to the site several times to address the different levels, especially since Michigan did not activate **PART A** and **PART B** of the program at the same time. IF the pharmacies feel they have enough allocation and vaccine to vaccinate the entire building (depending on numbers), they could possibly do it all at once, however the focus will be on vaccinating the **PART A** facilities (skilled nursing facilities/floors) first.

**What if a person leaves a facility after receiving the first dose but before they are due for the second dose?**

People who receive the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine at a LTC facility but are not onsite to receive the second dose may bring their vaccination record card to another provider in their jurisdiction to complete the vaccine series. Pharmacy partners are also working with facilities to allow these people to come to the facility location during subsequent clinics to receive vaccine (I.e., plans to have drive-up vaccination so the person receiving vaccine would not need to enter the actual facility). Offering this option will vary across facilities. Work with your facility to determine your options. Otherwise, individuals can also contact their local health department to determine how to get their second dose.

**Adult Foster Care (AFC) and Homes for the Aged (HFA) facilities are in what priority group? When will they receive vaccine?**

All AFC and HFA enrolled in the Federal LTC Pharmacy Partnership Program are considered PART B of the program. All LTC facilities are [phase 1A priority](#) following Michigan's Interim Prioritization Guidance. PART B includes assisted living, personal care homes, residential care, adult family homes, adult foster homes, HUD 202, IDD, CCRC, and Veteran's homes. AFC and HFA facilities NOT enrolled in the program are still considered top priority for vaccination and will be responsible for reaching out to their LHD to obtain vaccine.

**Where can I find the list of LTC facilities, including AFC, HFA, and more, enrolled in the Federal LTC Pharmacy Partnership Program.**

The list of facilities is posted at [www.Michigan.gov/COVIDvaccine](http://www.Michigan.gov/COVIDvaccine). Click on the box labeled “LTC Pharmacy Partnership.” Then click on the “List of participating LTC facilities” and download the excel spreadsheet to view the enrolled and matched facilities. Please note there are multiple tabs at the bottom of the spreadsheet indicating “Matched\_Part A Sites” (skilled nursing facilities) and “Matched\_Part B Sites” (other eligible and matched facility types) and their assigned federal pharmacy partners. The “Unmatched” tab does not include ALL facilities that are not participating in the program. Please read the Data Dictionary in the spreadsheet for more information.

**What kind of staff support should the LTCF be prepared to provide when the clinics occur?**

CVS plans to vaccinate residents in their rooms. The LTCF shouldn’t need to provide staff to monitor movements of residents, however, additional staff may be needed to accompany pharmacists in each room if facility policy requires.

Walgreens will vaccinate based on the need of the facility. They will go room to room if necessary or hold clinics in a centralized activity room. LTCF staff assistance may be necessary to monitor patients during the initial 15 minutes after vaccination.

MHA plans to vaccinate based on the need of the facility. The majority of clinics will be planned to be in a centralized location within each LTC facility; however, they will go room to room if necessary.

**Do providers need to be concerned about resident and staff consent forms?**

Consent process can be discussed with specific pharmacy partner assigned to the LTC facility.

According to CDC, partners supporting the Pharmacy Partnership for LTC Program should follow all Emergency Use Authorization Conditions of Use for COVID-19 vaccines when vaccinating LTCF residents, including provision of fact sheets. Consent/assent for vaccination should be obtained from the resident or their medical proxy and documented in the resident’s chart per standard practice. For more information visit [CDC’s FAQ](#) for residents in LTC facilities.

Pharmacy partners will be providing the necessary forms to the LTC facilities prior to the scheduled vaccination clinics. These forms require documentation that consent was given by the resident or their medical proxy, staff members, and individual being vaccinated.

**Where do clergy who enter LTC facilities fall on the list of prioritizations for vaccination in LTC settings?**

CDC is operating under Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations for Health Care Personnel. For COVID-19 Vaccination, [HCP include](#) all paid and unpaid persons

serving in healthcare settings who have the potential for direct or indirect exposure to patients or infectious materials. Under this definition, clergy could be considered priority for vaccination in LTCF. If a LTCF would like to include a clergy member who enters their facility as a member of their 'staff' to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, the LTCF would need to work with their pharmacy partner and include that individual in their staff counts provided to the pharmacy.

**Can family members who enter LTC facilities to provide daily care or hospice services to residents be vaccinated under this program?**

As stated above, CDC is operating under the ACIP recommendations for Health Care Personnel. Under this definition (explained in the question above), these individuals may be considered for vaccination in this program if they provide daily or essential services to residents. However, it is extremely important that the LTC facility include these individuals in the counts of 'staff' provided to the pharmacy partners when scheduling the vaccination clinics. Walgreens, CVS, and MHA will contact each facility prior to the scheduled vaccination clinics to verify the number of individuals (staff and residents) who will be vaccinated at the upcoming vaccination clinics. The LTC facility should include the family members or other unpaid individuals that provide essential services to residents in the counts requested by the pharmacy before the clinics.

**Can MDHHS or a facility mandate the COVID-19 vaccine for its residents or staff?**

At this time, the COVID-19 vaccine was issued Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Under the EUA, the vaccine recipient can decide to refuse the vaccine. Since the vaccine is under EUA approval, facilities cannot mandate that their residents or staff must obtain the vaccine. MDHHS does NOT plan to mandate the vaccine in any capacity, including for health care personnel. It is a facility policy decision to handle infection control procedures.

**Do you have contact information for Walgreens, CVS, or MHA for facilities that are enrolled but have not been contacted yet?**

Our pharmacy partners are working diligently to reach out to all facilities to schedule their clinics to receive their first dose. If your facility has not been contacted please utilize the information below to work with your assigned pharmacy partner. Please review the "List of Participating LTC Facilities" found [here](#) to determine which pharmacy is matched with your facility. **NOTE: Enrollment for the program has closed. CVS, Walgreens, and MHA cannot enroll any new facilities at this time.**

**CVS**

CVS has set up an email address and a phone number for enrolled facilities to contact.

Email: [CovidVaccineClinicsLTCF@CVSHealth.com](mailto:CovidVaccineClinicsLTCF@CVSHealth.com)

Phone number: 833-968-1756

Additionally, CVS have launched a new link to allow facilities to confirm their clinic dates using their Clinic ID: [CVS COVID Clinic Confirmation Website](#).

### **Walgreens**

Walgreens has set up an email address and a website for LTC facilities.

Email: [ImmunizeLTC@Walgreens.com](mailto:ImmunizeLTC@Walgreens.com)

Website: [LTCF COVID Vaccination Program](#)

### **MHA**

Email: [vaccines@mhainc.com](mailto:vaccines@mhainc.com)

### **Additional Resources**

- [CDC Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care Program for COVID-19 Vaccination FAQs](#)
- [CDC LTCF COVID-19 Vaccination Toolkit](#)
- [MDHHS COVID Vaccine FAQ](#)
- [MDHHS Interim Prioritization Guidance](#)
- [MDHHS COVID Vaccine Homepage](#)

For more information about how to reach your local health department click [here](#).