

Subject Heading: COVID-19 Booster Dose Planning

Dear Administrators of Long Term Care Facilities,

COVID-19 vaccinations have significantly reduced deaths and severe illness related to coronavirus in long term care facilities. There are discussions about COVID-19 booster doses, but there is no current recommendation for that right now; however, we anticipate there will be soon. We're planning for booster doses now because we want to be ready when the recommendation occurs.

Our booster dose planning is different from our initial COVID-19 vaccine planning as we have vaccine supply available and can coordinate for a more rapid dissemination plan for vaccinations. To help make the booster dose planning as efficient as possible, please:

1. Create a list of residents/clients and staff with the name of the vaccine brand and the date they received their dose(s) of COVID-19 vaccine. We're not sure if the recommendation will be to have the same vaccine for the booster dose or the exact time period for the booster.
2. Assess your organizational policies for vaccination of residents/clients. Although Washington does not require written consent for vaccinations, knowing your organizational policies for what your facility requires is important. For resident/clients who are unable to consent, discuss and plan with the appropriate family member/medical decision-maker now in order to prepare for administration of booster doses.

Consider the following for planning/accessing COVID-19 vaccines:

1. **Population needs:** If you are planning for on-site support with an external pharmacy or organization, make sure you are planning for all ongoing residents, including those living independently and in licensed units, as well as staff and volunteers. Also consider including individuals who may not be employed by you, but who access your campus/location to provide services or professional care for residents.
2. **Long-term care pharmacy:** Ensure ongoing discussion with your pharmacy or current vaccine partner as you do advanced planning. Since they already have access to vaccine, they may be your best source for booster dose planning.
3. **If you don't have a pharmacy relationship:** The national partnership that coordinated for Walgreens/CVS to provide vaccinations will not be available for booster doses, but Washington has a lot of long term care pharmacies, community, and mobile resources available to support this work. If you do not currently have a plan for ongoing vaccinations, please take this short survey to let us know: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DQ5K9WV>
4. **If your facility provides vaccines for staff and/or residents:** We encourage offering different vaccine brands. We've found that offering more than one vaccine brand is helpful to support choice for the vaccine recipient. If you're unable to coordinate this with your vaccine provider, DOH is happy to try to help support this effort.

Announcing the Long Term Care COVID-19 Immunization Champion Award: We want to help celebrate you for the work you've done to provide a safer environment for your residents and staff to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Find more information on our DOH website: [Long Term Care COVID-19 Immunization Champion Award :: Washington State Department of Health](#). Registration for the summer award will close September 3, 2021.

DOH will provide additional information for planning and coordination, including any recommendations for booster doses as soon as available. You can also view our resource on [Preparing for Possible COVID-](#)

[19 Booster Doses in Long-Term Care Facilities](#). For more information, please contact JoAnn Parris or Kathy Bay at COVID.Vaccine@doh.wa.gov.

Thank you,
Kathy

Kathy Bay RN, CENP
Doctorate Nursing Practice
Clinical, Quality and School Section Manager
Office of Immunization
Washington State Department of Health
kathy.bay@doh.wa.gov
360-236-3540 www.doh.wa.gov