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| Long-Term Care Facilities COVID-19 Advisory Group – Meeting Minutes | **december 30, 2020**  3:00PM-4:00PM |

**Review and approval of meeting minutes:**

* Reviewed previous meeting minutes, made suggested edits and obtained motion to approve minutes. Minutes approved.

**Vaccine Update:**

DOH immunization call this week provided updates on the vaccine. 330,000 doses allocated to WA – 260,000 set aside for health care facilities. Only 48,000 have actually been administered but part of this may be a data entry lag.

There is a new tool out – the Phase finder. It’s a software app where you provide demographic data and it will ping you when you are eligible to get the vaccination.

Vaccines are being distributed in nursing facilities – the first week was Consonas and then Walgreens and CVS have started on Dec 28. The first 3 weeks will focus on nursing facilities. Once the SNFs are done (this is phase 1a), they will move on the all other facility types (which is also part of phase 1a) (they are all lumped in together and called “Assisted Living” but they are all our other LTC facility types).

Calls for scheduling should start happening next week for vaccinations beginning to mid February.

Here is the CDC’s LTC vaccine toolkit:<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/toolkits/long-term-care/index.html>

Kathy Bay has been very responsive – thank you, Kathy.

Question from King County Public Health:

One facility had an undocumented individual – should they be vaccinated under the federal program or how does that work? They did get vaccinated but it caused them to pause.

Answer: Yes, documentation/immigration status does not matter. These individuals should be vaccinated if they are choosing to be. Kathy will clarify this again with Walgreens and CVS. The only issue is tracking the person to make sure they get the second vaccination of the same brand (i.e. 2 Pfizers or 2 Modernas).

Question from Laura at LeadingAge WA: Are residents in CCRCs to be vaccinated all at once?

Answer from Kathy: Yes, we will try to incorporate independent living portions when we do the SNF and all other facility type vaccines at the CCRC but it will depend on the number of vaccines available and the number of individuals. The group willing to get vaccinated has been about 75% so there are some vaccinations left over that we can use.

There have been 147 vaccination clinics scheduled (this is phase 1a and 1b)

There is colocation of vaccination clinics where it makes sense to do so.

Question: Does CVS have a smaller footprint?

Answer: We would have to count – it is close. Facilities chose their preference so DOH only chose for them if they didn’t choose and then it was based on which pharmacy was geographically closest to the facility and if they were both close, DOH chose one but tried to maintain an even split between the two.

In some cases facilities have dropped off the federal list because LHJs have provided vaccinations or consonas picked them up and did vaccinations.

In addition, there are 17 or so pharmacies that are known for doing LTC facility vaccinations, particularly Adult Family Homes so DOH is trying to help match facilities with these pharmacies to maximize vaccination opportunities.

Comment from John, AFH Council: Walgreens has said they won’t be contacting AFHs until the SNFs are completely done. CVS has contacted some homes and said they won’t start AFHs until mid-March.

Kathy will follow up on this – that’s not what was said in a recent meeting.

ACTION ITEM: Kathy to report out on when AFHs should be contacted by Walgreens and CVS and possible timing of vaccinations

Comment from Deb at LeadingAge: LeadingAge isn’t seeing this in actuality either. Are there protocols in writing that these pharmacies should be following?

The national contract does not identify independent living, just SNFs and “ALFs”

The first conversation DOH had with Walgreens about independent living was today. DOH is talking with CVS about this tomorrow. The number of vaccinations for a facility is based on number of beds times 2 (federal program assumed a 1:1 staffing ratio).

The vaccine supply will drive the vaccinations in independent living.

Are we able to access Moderna yet? No, just Pfizer so far.

Next week’s shipment to include 58,000 Pfizer vaccinations and we pulled 48,000-49,000 of those for long-term care facilities. Some were also pulled out for Consonas to use.

We may have more Moderna later but right now it is just Pfizer.

Supported Living:

Most were contacted by Walgreens last week saying scheduling for next week. Now all contact has stopped so we are in limbo as to when this will occur.

Walgreens has standard contract pieces that need to be signed and returned and sometimes those sit because they haven’t come back signed from the facility – they won’t schedule until everything is signed and returned.

ACTION ITEM: Kathy to check with Walgreens on Supported Living schedule.

There are definitely common themes among these meetings:  
Communication

Access and consistency

Dose availability

Per John, the most common question he is getting is whether the AFH is registered. Is it possible to get a list of AFHs that are on the federal register?

There was some discussion during the meeting about whether there is any reason DOH cannot release that list (PHI, any other protected information).   
  
ACTION ITEM: Kathy to verify with her reporting structure as to whether it is okay to release and then she will put the list together and send to John if it is okay to do so.

If they aren’t registered, we will want to launch the other pharmacy option to coordinate vaccination.

We heard from one hospital that they are vaccinating anyone 70+ and that makes long-term care facility residents frustrated and confused.

The vaccination process takes a lot of communication and coordination and of course we want everyone to get vaccinated who wants to be vaccinated – we are trying to do that in order.

Gratitude to Kathy for her work.

Is there someone at DOH working with hospitals on “open pods” allowing other workers to get into their clinics? Yes, and as long as the provider gets the same vaccination 3 weeks apart this is good.

Also, at this point the more facilities can prepare all the paperwork needed, the better, in order to make the vaccination clinics run smoothly and quickly.

**Rapid Response Teams:**

Securing two more teams by Jan 1. These will be initially dedicated to King, Pierce and Snohomish Counties but they can move if the need arises.

There were more AFHs requesting teams in the last week than any other facility type.

**Other Updates:**

Governor extended restrictions to Jan 11. ALTSA updated website and info to match this date. The Safe Start documents are going up through leadership review. DOH will review as well. These need to be approved up through the Governor’s office by Jan 11 to coincide with expiration of Gov’s order.

There is talk of making the long-term care Safe Start its own standalone thing, much like the schools Safe Start plan. If that happens we just need to make sure the documents match/reference everything correctly.

Question from Laura at LeadingAge WA: Is anyone looking to see if the rapid growth in LTC is the UK strain? (Facilities are growing from 0-48 positive cases, for example, in a really short amount of time).

Public Health can look at that during the PCR test.

ACTION ITEM: Laura to send Charissa the facility info.

Agenda items for next week: Vaccination update, update on possible carve out of long-term care from Governor’s larger Safe Start plan.