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| Long-Term Care Facilities COVID-19 Advisory Group – Meeting Minutes | **january 13, 2021**  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:**

Kathy (DOH):

CVS/Walgreens are actively doing vaccination clinics onsite at facilities.

CVS shared data last week.

Both pharmacies should have the first round of nursing facility vaccinations finished by this weekend.

Other long-term care facilities should get their first dose by the end of January.

CVS is looking at independent living numbers. Kathy is talking to the CVS rep about this.

DOH has heard that the pharmacies are calling facilities the day before their scheduled vaccination clinic to confirm the appointment and in a few cases there have been reports that if the facility doesn’t answer the phone and confirm, the pharmacy doesn’t show up.

This is a problem because facilities are busy caring for patients and if an unknown number calls, they may not answer the phone.

If there are facilities that are not connecting with pharmacies for the pre-day check in, let the WHCA and AFHC know. Kathy is talking with CVS and Walgreens about this issue.

DOH is cross referencing facilities with pharmacies to make sure everyone is getting done with the vaccinations.

Bainbridge ALF is reporting an issue with Walgreens – Lauren Bast emailed Kathy. Kathy to follow up.

Staff vaccination numbers are getting better but there is concern about the federal program: 20-40% of staff will not have been vaccinated because they missed their facilities scheduled vaccination appointment or are declining to be vaccinated out of vaccine side effect concerns.

Vaccines are also available in open pods when hospitals and doctor’s offices are vaccinating people other than their staff.

Storefront vaccinations are also on the way through grocery chains like Safeway, Albertsons and Hagen.

Is there a map of open pods?

No, but the PhaseFinder program ([www.findyourphasewa.com](http://www.findyourphasewa.com)) will tell them what phase they are in, and then it will identify a local pharmacy they can go to.

For independent living in CCRCs, what if CVS doesn’t come through with the vaccination?

Kathy is exploring options for this population: If there are extra vaccinations, this group can get them. There may also be a way to set up a mobile onsite service or these folks may want to go out into the community to access vaccination. Kathy is talking with CVS about this population and the options for mobile vaccinations, etc.

Where is Walgreens’ role in that? Some SNF/ALs are using CVS but they are reaching out to Walgreens for independent living? Kathy will follow up on this. (Email from Grant?)

It’s difficult when the SNF and ALF in the CCRC have 100 residents each but then the independent living portion has 500 residents – pharmacies just don’t have that bandwidth.

Comment from LeadingAge: If the pharmacy is at the CCRC, independent living is part of the 1a tier, they should vaccinate them.

Kathy: Yes, agree. If CVS is onsite and can do them, they should. Three are just a couple concerns with them calling Walgreens which could disrupt Walgreen’s schedule at another facility.

Can we give out the PhaseFinder link to 1a staff?

Yes.

RCS is offering staff to Kathy to reach out to facilities that haven’t been set up with a pharmacy yet. These are mainly AFHs – RCS will call providers that haven’t been matched. Kathy will give RCS a script and then Kathy will help match those facilities to a pharmacy that is local to them.

Several pharmacies are finalizing their contracts to vaccinate.

John sent a list of about 500 names to Kathy. He is concerned that RCS will duplicate efforts and confuse providers on this list.

Kathy is saying no, the list she will send to RCS will be of providers who have made no contact.

The script will say something like, “This is a pharmacy near your location. Can they call you to schedule vaccinations?

From King County Public Health: Please eliminate homes with City of Seattle address since the fire department is doing these.

Per Kathy, no, we will contact the fire department or King County Public Health to check if the facility has been vaccinated and then will check them off our list – this is just so we don’t assume the Fire Dept got them all and then we miss someone.

AFH Provider Enrollment: Please send us back the facility names and info and we will add you to our roster – there are over 600 on the list.

Mandatory vaccination for workers: On the horizon? No, at this point in time, the Governor doesn’t support mandatory vaccination because these vaccines are under Emergency Use Authorization.

Quarantine Timeframes: Once we have vaccinations done – then we can revisit quarantine timeframe. For example, those who go out regularly for dialysis – this has been very hard for them. The CDC and DOH will establish any changes in quarantine or isolation time periods or other restrictions.

ACTION ITEM: Sara at DOH to reach out to CDC to see if quarantine timeframes will change once vaccinations are done.

Update on TB skin testing issue. Kathy did send some info out last week. There is a Dear Provider Letter and staff Management Bulletin going out regarding TB testing as well.

There was CDC guidance that contradicted our rules so this Dear Provider Letter will confirm that we need to follow CDC guidance. We are also adopting CDC guidance into our emergency rule making.

**Healthy WA Roadmap to Recovery:**

Governor released this plan, effective January 11.

It meant that our emergency proclamations with visitation ended on 1/11 so we met Friday 1/8 with stakeholders to discuss. We went through our Safe Start documents and made changes.

We agreed to continue the 4 phase approach with cut points and with LHJ consensus on when facilities can move phases.

We sent this to the Governor’s office Monday night.

In the interim the long-term care safe start plans from August is the plan we are following until this new one gets approved.

The new plan is with the Governor’s legal team now for review. Once that is done we will get the green light to get it posted.

We need to get Save the Dates out for training on new plan. We will start on this next week and we need to work with Sara to get dates established and put training materials together.

ACTION ITEM: DOH and RCS to work on Save the Dates and training for revised LTC Safe Start guidance

We sent out a Dear Provider Letter that the new plan is coming so providers are aware.

We will also update our FamHelp website with the documents so they are easy for the public to find.

**Introducing Mike Anbesse:**

Mike is currently the Region 2 RCS Regional Administrator. He will be the new Director of RCS effective February 1st with the retirement of Candy Goehring.

Mike is an RN who has 17 years of experience in RCS, has worked in long-term care facilities prior to working for RCS and was an oncology nurse as well.

Welcome Mike.

There will not be a gap in coverage in Region 2 for RCS. Kathy Gold will be the interim Regional Administrator and the Department will recruit for a permanent replacement.

**Concurrent Resolution 8402**: In the Senate to extend proclamations until the end of the pandemic.

**Next meeting:**

Add Dr. von Preyss’ agenda items from her email this week

CPR renewal – if we don’t get answers before next week