



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
Aging and Long-Term Support Administration
PO Box 45600, Olympia, Washington 98504-5600

March 21, 2024

ALTSA: AFH #2024-010
ALTSA: ALF #2024-009
ALTSA: ESF #2024-009
ALTSA: CCRSS #2024-006
ALTSA: ICF/IID #2024-006
ALTSA: NH #2024-013

UPDATED COVID-19 VACCINE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADULTS AGES 65 AND OLDER

Dear Administrator/Provider/Superintendent:

This letter is to inform you that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated [COVID-19 vaccine recommendations](#) on February 28, 2024. The update recommends that adults ages 65 years and over receive an additional updated dose of the 2023-2024 COVID-19 vaccine.

Background:

Primary vaccines and booster vaccines protect against SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19). COVID-19 vaccines available in the United States are effective at protecting people from becoming seriously ill, being hospitalized, and dying. Staying current with the recommended vaccinations is one of the most effective ways to safeguard against COVID-19.

What You Need to Know:

- People 65 years old and older should receive an additional dose of updated 2023-2024 COVID-19 vaccine at least 4 months after their last 2023-2024 dose.
- People who are [moderately or severely immunocompromised](#) may get additional doses of the updated COVID-19 vaccine.
- CDC recommends the 2023-2024 updated COVID-19 vaccines: Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, or Novavax to protect against serious illness from COVID-19.
- Everyone ages 5 years and older should get **1 dose of the updated COVID-19 vaccine** to protect against serious illness from COVID-19.
- People who are up to date have lower risk of severe illness, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19 compared to people who are unvaccinated or who have not completed the doses recommended for them by CDC.

What Long-term Care Settings Should Do:

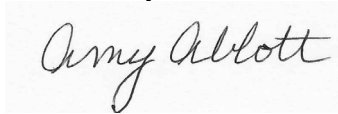
- Encourage ALL residents/clients and staff to stay up to date on their COVID-19 vaccination status.
- Routinely assess the immunization status of all residents/clients and strongly recommend and encourage COVID-19 vaccines based on the needs of each resident/client.
- Provide COVID-19 primary vaccines/booster vaccines if your facility/home can administer these.
- Refer residents/clients to a provider for COVID-19 vaccine administration if your facility/home cannot provide immunizations.
- Document resident/client COVID-19 vaccine administration and immunization status.

AL TSA Provider Letter: UPDATED COVID-19 VACCINE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADULTS
AGES 65 AND OLDER
March 21, 2024
Page 2

For more information about COVID-19 vaccines, visit the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) [COVID-19 Vaccine Information](#) page.

Thank you for your continued commitment to resident health and safety. If you have further questions, please reach out to Jamie Ford and Linda Dunn at jp.epteam@dshs.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy Abbott". The signature is written in a cursive style and is centered within a light gray rectangular box.

Amy Abbott, Director
Residential Care Services

DSHS: *"Transforming Lives"*