



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

October 23, 2020

ALISA: NH #2020-075  
**PHARMACY PARTNERSHIP FOR LONG-TERM CARE PROGRAM  
FOR COVID-19 VACCINATION**

Dear Nursing Home/Facility Administrator:

The COVID-19 pandemic has been an unprecedented challenge to nursing homes, and approximately 30% of deaths from COVID-19 have occurred in congregate care facilities. A vaccine for COVID-19 is in the late stages of development, and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has collaborated with CVS and Walgreens to offer on-site COVID-19 vaccinations to these settings, once vaccination is recommended and available.

The program is free to facilities. The pharmacy will schedule and coordinate the vaccination process directly with each facility. The pharmacy will manage obtaining the vaccine and supplies, storage of the vaccine, administration of the vaccine, and billing.

Please note: Signing up *does not* mean you will receive vaccine. CMS and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are awaiting Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP, a committee within CDC) recommendations regarding which settings will be the populations of focus for the vaccine. Signing up *does* ensure you have a plan in place to be contacted by CVS or Walgreens when the vaccine is available.

If a facility is interested in participating, they should sign up or opt out starting October 19. **Sign up will remain open for two weeks starting October 19.**

- Skilled nursing facilities will make their selection through the [National Healthcare Safety Network](#) (NHSN). Detailed instructions to enroll are at the bottom of this letter.
- Facilities will indicate which pharmacy partner (one of two large retail pharmacies or existing LTC pharmacy) they prefer to have on-site. Reassignment to another provider may occur, depending on vaccination availability and distribution considerations.

The on-site services program will last for approximately two months. After that, each facility can choose to continue working with CVS or Walgreens, or can work with a pharmacy provider of its choice.

For questions about the Pharmacy Partnership for Long-term Care Program, please contact [eocevent494@cdc.gov](mailto:eocevent494@cdc.gov). For more information, please see the [Program Overview](#) and [Frequently Asked Questions](#), as well as the [October 16, 2020 Health and Human Services Press Release](#).

Sincerely,

Candace Goehring, Director  
Residential Care Services

DSHS: "Transforming Lives"