

Preparing for Possible COVID-19 Booster Doses in Long-Term Care Facilities

COVID-19 vaccinations have significantly reduced deaths and severe illness related to coronavirus in long-term care facilities. It's essential that public health, long-term care facilities, and clinics continue our initial coordination to maintain vaccination rates and reduce spread of the virus. Although there are currently no recommendations in the U.S. for booster doses to be administered for any individuals, advance work to prepare for a possible indication would help long-term care organizations. The Department of Health understands and appreciates the collaboration needed to ensure availability of COVID-19 vaccine for residents and new staff.

Here are some steps you should take to be prepared for possible booster doses of COVID-19 vaccine.

Cost for Vaccination

If indicated, it is expected that booster doses would be provided at no cost to the resident/client, staff member or organization. Coordinate with your current pharmacy or vaccine provider to understand their capacity and willingness to provide vaccinations if needed.

Note What and When Vaccinations Occurred

If possible, create a list of residents/clients and staff with the name of the vaccine and dates the doses were administered. Current recommendations are to use the same vaccine for all doses. Clinical trials are under way to identify the safety and effectiveness of mixing vaccine brands.

Ask the individual or their medical decision-maker to see their vaccination record card. If the individual did not receive or lost their card, they can contact the vaccine provider or access their vaccine records online at [MyIRMobile.com](https://myirmobile.com). MyIRMobile is an internet-based portal that gives people access to their official state vaccination records. Those who need further help are encouraged to call the state COVID-19 vaccination hotline, 1-833-VAX-HELP. If they need to call in a language other than English, they may call 2-1-1.

Review Consent Policies and Procedures

Although Washington does not require written consent for vaccinations, knowing your organizational policies for what you require for vaccination is important. Plan who must consent, whether you will collect verbal or written consent, and how the process occurs to help this go more smoothly. Additionally, if a resident/client is unable to consent, discuss and plan for how consent will be done with the appropriate family member or medical decision-maker.

How to Access and Offer Vaccine

In the initial vaccination program, long-term care facilities could register for a national partnership to do in-facility vaccination. Vaccine is more readily available now, but if booster doses are recommended, there will be programs to help support on-site vaccinations for our high-risk population, or whichever group is recommended to receive these doses.

Consider these things when planning for COVID-19 vaccine access:

- **Population needs:** If planning for on-site support with an external pharmacy or organization, ensure you are planning for all ongoing residents, including those living independently and in licensed units; staff; and volunteers. Also consider including individuals who may not be employed by you, but who access your campus/location providing services or professional care for residents in your planning.
- **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.
- **Authorized providers to administer and order vaccines:** We encourage on-site support for resident/client vaccinations and appreciate pharmacy support of this critical need. It is feasible for on-site vaccinations to be provided by appropriately trained and licensed staff. [Here is a list of providers who are authorized to administer and order vaccines in Washington state.](#)
- **Washington state standing order for vaccinations:** The [Washington state standing order for COVID-19 vaccinations, found here](#), is based on national recommended standards and includes important safety and vaccination requirements related to licensing and required vaccine recipient screening and post vaccination monitoring.

DOH will provide additional information for planning and coordination, including any recommendations for booster doses as soon as available. For more information, please contact JoAnn Parris or Kathy Bay at COVID.Vaccine@doh.wa.gov.

To request this document in another format, call 1-800-525-0127. Deaf or hard of hearing customers, please call 711 ([Washington Relay](#)) or email civil.rights@doh.wa.gov.