



BACKGROUND

The Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care Program (the Pharmacy Partnership), which provided vaccinations to residents and staff at more than 70,000 enrolled long-term care facilities (LTCFs), is coming to an end this month. Going forward, Indiana wants to ensure LTCFs have continued or “maintenance” access to COVID-19 vaccine for new or unvaccinated residents and staff.

PARTNERING WITH INDIANA’S PROVIDER ASSOCIATIONS

The Indiana Department of Health (IDOH), in cooperation with the state’s long-term care (LTC) provider associations – the Indiana Health Care Association (IHCA), LeadingAge Indiana, and Hoosier Owners & Providers for the Elderly (HOPE) – has worked to devise the best system for ensuring maintenance vaccine access for LTCFs in Indiana. IDOH and the associations believe this plan gives facilities a sense of control over their maintenance vaccine processes and enables them to utilize existing pharmacy relationships to provide vaccine to residents and staff.

OPTIONS FOR LTCFS TO HAVE MAINTENANCE (CONTINUING) ACCESS TO COVID-19 VACCINE

LTCFs have three basic options for ensuring maintenance vaccine access for their facilities:

- FEDERAL OPTION: LTCFs can receive COVID-19 vaccine from an LTC pharmacy enrolled as a COVID-19 vaccine provider through the [Federal Retail Pharmacy Program for COVID-19 Vaccination \(FRPP\)](#).**
 - The FRPP is a collaboration between the federal government, LTCFs, and several national pharmacy partners and networks representing over 40,000 pharmacies nationwide, including LTC pharmacy locations. In this program, pharmacy partners will receive limited vaccine allocations from the federal government to distribute to locations in select states and territories. **Note: IDOH has no involvement in this option.**
 - Facilities in the FRPP must coordinate directly with participating LTC pharmacies to get access to vaccines and plan vaccination clinics. A list of pharmacy partners participating in the federal program is available [here](#).
- LOCAL PHARMACY OPTION: LTCFs can receive COVID-19 vaccine from an LTC pharmacy enrolled as a COVID-19 vaccine provider with the state.**
 - The LTCF staff must contact its current pharmacy provider to check if the pharmacy is enrolled to provide COVID-19 vaccine through IDOH.
 - If the pharmacy is not enrolled but wishes to provide the vaccine to the LTCF, it can enroll as a provider at the IDOH [COVID Provider Enrollment](#) site.
 - Under this option, the pharmacy retains responsibility for acquiring, storing, and administering the vaccine, and for reporting supply and vaccination administration to the state as required. The pharmacy may contract with staff from a LTCF to help with administering vaccine, but retains full responsibility for vaccination reporting (e.g., to [CHIRP](#) if required).



Maintenance Access to COVID-19 Vaccine in Long-Term Care Facilities

3. **DIRECT ENROLLMENT OPTION: LTCFs can receive COVID-19 vaccine by enrolling directly with IDOH at [COVID Provider Enrollment](#).** Under this option, the LTCF is solely responsible for vaccine ordering, storage, handling, and administration, and for reporting supply and administration information to the state. This option is the most labor-intensive for LTCFs.

INITIAL ENROLLMENT PUSH

IDOH has been in contact with LTC pharmacies that serve a large percentage of Indiana's LTCFs to confirm they are signed up and ready to provide maintenance vaccine to facilities. IDOH is also contacting other identified LTC pharmacies that have expressed interest in providing maintenance vaccine but are not yet enrolled as providers.

Residents or Staff Needing Second Doses

At some facilities, a few residents and staffers, for whatever reason, received their first shot but not their second through the Pharmacy Partnership. The best way a facility can ensure these residents and staff get their necessary second doses is to promptly select and move ahead with one of the three maintenance vaccine options discussed above.

In the rare case a resident or staffer needs a second shot but for some reason cannot wait until the LTCF implements its maintenance vaccine plan, the LTCF should first seek help from its local health department (LHD). If the LHD is unable to assist, the LTCF should contact IDOH at one of the emails below to make alternate arrangements for the second shots. Of course, any resident or staffer who needs both the first and second vaccine shots should register at ourshot.in.gov or call [211](tel:211) to set up a clinic appointment.

NEXT STEPS FOR LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES

1. Talk to your existing LTC pharmacy to better understand your options. If the pharmacy is set up to receive COVID-19 vaccine through the federal government or through the state, it can promptly administer vaccine to your residents and staff.
2. If your existing LTC pharmacy is not a federal or state COVID-19 vaccination partner and does not wish to be, you have other options for locating a pharmacy provider for your LTCF. For the federal option, visit [the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program website](#). For the local pharmacy option, you may get possible provider names from your state provider association (IHCA, LeadingAge Indiana, or HOPE). You can also see a list of state-enrolled pharmacies that might be able to help you [here](#).
3. If your facility chooses not to use either the federal or local pharmacy options, it may [enroll directly as a provider](#) with the state, and order COVID-19 vaccine directly to administer to your residents and staff. This more difficult option will require your LTCF to take actions (e.g., storage, reporting) not required of LTCFs under the other options.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Email Dr. Shireesha Vuppalanchi (svuppalanchi@isdh.in.gov), or Amy Kent (amkent1@isdh.in.gov). IDOH is here to help.