

VDH LTC Pharmacy Partnership Talking Points 12/15/2020

- The initial Pfizer doses (72,150 doses) being shipped in Virginia this week will be distributed directly to geographically diverse healthcare systems with ultracold storage capacity, and will go to healthcare personnel (HCP).
- VDH officially activated the federal CDC-pharmacy-LTCF partnership on December 7 to begin December 28. The majority of LTCFs in Virginia will receive vaccinations from CVS and Walgreens onsite via this partnership, ensuring vaccination of both LTCF HCP and residents equitably across the entire state.
 - Nursing home/skilled nursing facility (SNF) clinics will occur first, followed by assisted living facility clinics.
 - Vaccination of SNFs will likely take several weeks. This timeline will be updated as more information becomes available.
 - We understand that Walgreens is continuing to develop their implementation plan including considerations of logistic efficiency, size of facilities, levels of community transmission and equity components as well.
- CVS and Walgreens have confirmed that they will start to reach out this week (week of 12/14) to LTCFs to schedule the first onsite clinic, and that will continue to occur over the next few weeks.
 - VDH has confirmed that CVS started initial communication on Monday, December 14.
 - At this time, LTCFs are asked not to reach out directly to CVS and Walgreens as an increase in inbound calls may hinder their ability to schedule clinics with facilities. CVS and Walgreens will contact facilities as soon as they are ready to schedule vaccination events.
- CVS and Walgreens will be providing Pfizer vaccine to Virginia LTCFs initially. This may be a change from previous communication. The decision to allocate Pfizer vaccine was based on CDC ACIP recommendations that supported the use of Pfizer vaccine for this population, the ability of the pharmacies to maintain cold-chain storage, and the amount of Pfizer vaccine allocated to Virginia.
 - Please note that specifics regarding which vaccine is provided in certain populations and the amount of vaccine received in Virginia is a moving target and dependent on when and how quickly vaccine doses are manufactured.
 - VDH will be having weekly calls with CVS and Walgreens moving forward, and will provide updates as they become available.
- VDH is coordinating future prioritization based on federal guidance and will ensure that the second doses of vaccine provided to individuals follows CDC ACIP guidelines; the current guidance is that vaccines from different manufacturers are not interchangeable. For example, if an individual receives one dose of the Pfizer vaccine, the second dose administered would also be the Pfizer vaccine.