

Long-term Care COVID-19 Vaccine Resources

3/31/2021

Minnesota's long-term care (LTC) facilities have made great strides in vaccinating their residents and staff and are nearing completion of the initial three-visit vaccination cycle. As facilities reach the end of this initial phase, a significant number of individual residents and staff are likely to need access to a second vaccine dose, after receiving their first dose during this phase. Others, whether they were unable to receive a vaccine during the first phase or they have become newly eligible as new staff members of residents of a LTC facility, should consider vaccine administration of both first and second doses within 3-4 weeks of their arrival in LTC. This need will be ongoing.

This document is intended to assist leaders of LTC facilities to describe pathways for:

- Closing gaps in acquiring second doses for residents or staff who received their first dose during third clinics.
- Accessing vaccination for LTC residents and staff after the initial three-visit cycle.

Because Minnesota's vaccination strategy relies on hundreds of vaccinators around the state (clinics, pharmacies, state-run vaccination sites and local public health) and the supply of vaccine continues to be far less than the demand, LTC facilities' access to vaccine will vary due to capacity and pre-existing relationships. Therefore, the best approach for one facility may not be the best approach for another.

Vaccination of all LTC staff and residents who want to be vaccinated remains a high priority for the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). LTC residents and staff will remain as part of the priority 1a population. Therefore, they will continue to be eligible for vaccination by Minnesota vaccinators.

The following information provides guidance on:

- Securing access to second dose vaccinations.
- Ongoing vaccination planning resources.

At any time, if you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to the SEOC LTC team: health.seocltc@state.mn.us.

Securing access to second dose vaccinations

If you require assistance with accessing second dose vaccinations for your staff and residents who received first doses from the federal program, please complete the following request form:

[SNF/ALF Second Dose Completion \(https://redcap-vac.web.health.state.mn.us/redcap/surveys/?s=3EDJMDNDA\)](https://redcap-vac.web.health.state.mn.us/redcap/surveys/?s=3EDJMDNDA).

Ongoing vaccination planning resources

The following are a variety of vaccination resources for leaders of LTC facilities to explore in accessing vaccines for their residents and staff on an ongoing basis.

This information will continue to evolve as the response progresses, vaccine supply increases, and the number of state-registered vaccinators increases. Therefore, as of March 23, 2021, SEOC LTC leaders highly recommend leveraging the list of options below.

Vaccination resource options

The following are a list of vaccination options for LTC residents and staff to consider for their planning purposes. Please explore all options based on your facility's planning needs, recognizing that the ultimate long-term goal will be to align with your facility's vaccination plan.

Minnesota's Vaccine Connector – Most ideal for LTC staff

The Minnesota COVID-19 [Vaccine Connector \(mn.gov/covid19/vaccine/connector/\)](https://mn.gov/covid19/vaccine/connector/) is a tool that helps Minnesotans find out when, where, and how to get a COVID-19 vaccine. This is a good option for people who are able to travel off-site to a clinic or state vaccination site.

Once registered, people will receive periodic messages with information on when eligibility changes and options for vaccination in their area.

Connect directly with primary care provider or health system clinic – Ideal for staff and residents

- Direct LTC staff to work directly with their primary care provider to schedule vaccination appointments.
- Assist/guide LTC residents to set up vaccination appointments with their primary care provider.

Connect with your typical vaccine provider – Ideal for staff and residents

- Connect with your vaccine provider to explore their availability and/or process for scheduling vaccination clinics. This is most ideal for LTC facilities who have an existing relationship regarding vaccination administration (e.g., influenza), and who have at least five residents or staff needing vaccination.

- Connect with your vaccine provider to explore their availability and/or process for scheduling vaccination clinics. This is most ideal for LTC facilities who have an existing relationship with vaccination administration (e.g., influenza), and who have at least five residents or staff needing vaccination. Reference [Vaccine Provider Models for Continuing COVID-19 Vaccination Efforts in Minnesota Long-term Care Facilities](#) (www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/hcp/ltcvaxmodel.pdf) to review the potential options your vaccinating partners may be participating in.
- Connect with a local pharmacy that is listed on the vaccine locator map: Find [Vaccine Locations](#) (mn.gov/covid19/vaccine/find-vaccine/locations/index.jsp).

Connect directly with local public health (LPH)

- Collaborate with LPH on any upcoming vaccination clinics available to your residents and/or staff.
- Connect with LPH if barriers exist in accessing vaccination assistance.

Planning checklist for LTC facility leaders

The following is a baseline set of questions to consider when developing your short- and long-term vaccination plan for staff and residents. It is important to recognize that COVID-19 vaccinations may not exactly align with your normal vaccination processes (e.g., influenza) in the short-term. However, the goal is to eventually align with them.

Addressing staff vaccination planning:

- What standard guidance will be given (e.g., where to go, how to access information, etc.) to new staff around completion of vaccine administration?
- What plans are in place for staff declinations?

Addressing resident vaccination planning:

- What standard practice will be in place for new residents to receive vaccination?
- What limiting factors must be taking into consideration when selecting standard practice?
- Who will be responsible to arrange vaccination efforts for residents?
- What plans are in place for staff declinations?

Administration planning points:

- Who will be responsible to update vaccination planning efforts when state resources change?
- How will information be communicated to staff and residents?
- What communication is being shared with families?

Stay informed

As the response continues to evolve and vaccine capacity increases, it is vital for LTC facilities to stay strongly connected to their community vaccination resources. This can be achieved by staying in close communication with local partners such as local public health, health care coalitions, health care providers, etc.

Leverage your local public health and health care coalitions as a resource. Although they may not be able to serve as vaccinators, they are vital in sharing information regarding community efforts.

Lastly, ongoing discussions continue at the federal level regarding additional vaccinator programs/options. State and regional leaders will continue to share as much information as possible when it is made available.



Minnesota Department of Health | health.mn.gov | 651-201-5000
625 Robert Street North PO Box 64975, St. Paul, MN 55164-0975

Contact health.communications@state.mn.us to request an alternate format.