

LeadingAge Notes from Conversation with CDC on Boosters

with Responses and Additional Resources from CDC

- **Pharmacies involved in the Federal Retail Pharmacy program are committed to ensuring access to vaccine for residents and staff in long-term care.** Given that facilities care for residents with different levels of need, there are several options available to arrange access to COVID-19 vaccine for residents and staff.
 - Facilities that wish to have an onsite clinic for booster doses should first work directly with a pharmacy partner to arrange. A list of LTC pharmacies can be found here: [Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care Program: COVID-19 Vaccination | CDC](#)
 - Facilities may also work with a retail pharmacy partner; information can be found here: [COVID-19 Vaccination Federal Retail Pharmacy Partnership Program | CDC](#)
 - And finally, facilities can work with their state health departments to identify ways they can receive assistance in administering vaccine
 - Please note that the list of LTC and Retail pharmacy partners may be updated so what is included here could change.
- **While planning and coordination for long-term care facilities should start now, the implementation of vaccine programs will be based on the FDA and ACIP make a recommendation. Currently, the guidance is focused on immunosuppressed individuals.**
 - In case helpful, here is official message from HHS
 - We have developed a plan to begin offering these booster shots this fall subject to FDA conducting an independent evaluation and determination of the safety and effectiveness of a third dose of the Pfizer and Moderna mRNA vaccines and CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) issuing booster dose recommendations based on a thorough review of the evidence.
 - Only after a thorough review of the evidence will CDC's independent advisory committee make recommendations on the use of boosters for the public.
 - The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), composed of medical and public health experts, develops recommendations, and provides guidance to the CDC Director on the use of vaccines for the general public.
- **It is sounding like around 8 months after you were fully vaccinated is the time most people will need boosters.**
 - Based on the data available, we believe we can start boosting people at their 8-month mark from receiving their second dose to increase protection against the potential for waning effectiveness against severe disease, hospitalization, and death, which could begin diminishing in the months ahead.
- **Clearly CDC recognizes that aging services staff and residents are a top priority. CDC is working with all of us AND with pharmacies and jurisdictions' health departments to plan ahead.**
 - Here is the link to the full media statement this morning: [Joint Statement from HHS Public Health and Medical Experts on COVID-19 Booster Shots | CDC Online Newsroom | CDC](#)
 - This is the part specific to older adults:

We are prepared to offer booster shots for all Americans beginning the week of September 20 and starting 8 months after an individual's second dose. At that time, the individuals who were fully vaccinated earliest in the vaccination rollout, including many health care providers, nursing home residents, and other seniors, will likely be eligible for a booster. We would also begin efforts to deliver booster shots directly to residents of long-term care facilities at that time, given the distribution of vaccines to this population early in the vaccine rollout and the continued increased risk that COVID-19 poses to them.

- **It's recognized that the ideal situation is on site clinics; the best way to make this happen will be good planning. Providers need to take the first steps to do this planning.**
 - See the information shared in the first bullet to assist with planning
 - *Providers should implement plans tailored to meet the needs of their residents (and have more control on the timing/implementation so this process is most effective)*
- **CDC understands that 95% of nursing homes already have operational plans to vaccinate staff and residents. They should continue using these plans, the first line of which is to work with their LTC pharmacies. But they too need to work proactively and make their own plan.**
 - There are several options for nursing homes to receive vaccine and they should pursue the option that works best for their residents and staff.
- HHS recognizes it may be easier for larger providers with higher numbers of people to be immunized to negotiate onsite clinics; there's special attention and focus to be sure small providers and rural clinic needs are addressed too.
 - Yes, this is an issue that is a priority for HHS. Any insight that LeadingAge members may have to help inform plans to ensure small and rural facilities receive vaccine easily is welcomed.
- **Housing, AL, memory care, CCRCs, and really all aging services providers need to begin now to make plans.**
 - Yes, all facilities should begin making plans so that when the boosters are available, they can work as efficiently as possible to administer does.
 - CDC and its federal partners will provide more information about vaccine access as it becomes available.
- **Providers need to do two things right now to get started: figure out as well as possible how many doses you will need; and reach out to retail partners to begin to discuss how to bring them in for clinics or, if necessary, arrange to bring people to them.**
 - Yes, that is good advice. Pharmacy partners are aware of this plan and are likely anticipating beginning discussions with facilities.
- **Planning can also include activating all the processes you learned about in December – the spring. Consent forms, staffing clinics, setting up the space, communicating to families, etc.**
 - Yes. This is also good advice.
- **HHS is still working on logistics. Provider experience from the original roll out is incredibly valuable. CDC is looking for our input on things to keep in mind and plan for. we can run that thru LeadingAge for our members.**

- o Yes, please. We very much welcome any and all input.