

## What to Expect for Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care Program Third Clinics: *Frequently Asked Questions for Long-Term Care Facilities and Jurisdictions*

Pharmacy partners are hosting three on-site clinics at all long-term care facilities (LTCFs) enrolled in the [federal Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care \(LTC\) Program](#). Below are some frequently asked questions and answers to help LTCF administrators and clinical leadership prepare for residents and staff who may get their first COVID-19 vaccine dose at the third and final clinic.

**Q: If LTCF residents and staff have not received a first dose of COVID-19 vaccine, should they receive their first dose at the third and final clinic scheduled as part of the Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care Program?**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) supports optimizing vaccine access for all LTCF staff and residents. However, some jurisdictions have asked pharmacy partners not to initiate first dose vaccinations at third clinics. In this case, LTCFs and pharmacy partners should follow jurisdictional guidance.

**Q: How can we ensure LTCF residents and staff who receive their first dose of Moderna vaccine at the third on-site clinic are able to receive their second dose of Moderna vaccine?**

Some LTC pharmacies\* will be providing the Moderna vaccine to residents and staff at facilities they serve, either through the [Federal Retail Pharmacy Program](#) or through enrollment as a COVID-19 vaccination provider with a specific state or territory. LTCFs should check to see if their regular LTC pharmacy will have access to the Moderna vaccine. If so, pharmacy staff may administer the second dose of Moderna vaccine to staff and residents at the appropriate time.

LTCF staff or discharged residents who receive their first dose of Moderna vaccine at a third clinic can also seek their second dose in the community at a retail pharmacy location or through their local health department.

**Q: How can we ensure LTCF residents and staff who receive their first dose of Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine at the third on-site clinic are able to receive their second dose of Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine?**

Many LTC pharmacies may not stock Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine because of the product's unique cold chain requirements, so it is important to determine in advance how staff and residents who receive their first dose of Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine at a third clinic will access their second dose.

LTCF **staff members** who receive their first dose of Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine at a third clinic can contact CVS, Walgreens, or any other pharmacy locations providing the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine in their community to schedule an appointment to get their second dose. Staff can also contact their local health department for this information. This applies to LTCF residents who are later discharged, too.

LTCF administrators and clinical leadership should determine if there is a local provider available to administer the second dose of Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine to **residents** on site at the time it is needed, either by checking with another local pharmacy or by contacting their local health department. If all potential options for administering a second dose of Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine have been exhausted, LTCF clinical leadership may consider counseling residents to finish the vaccine series using the Moderna vaccine. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommends, "In exceptional situations in which the first-dose vaccine product cannot be determined or is no longer available, any available mRNA COVID-19 vaccine may be administered at a minimum interval of 28 days between doses to complete the mRNA COVID-19 vaccination series." ACIP further recommends that "...the second dose of Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines may be scheduled for administration up to 6 weeks (42 days) after the first dose."

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/clinical-considerations.html>

**Q: How can we ensure our LTCF has continued access to COVID-19 vaccine after the Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care Program is over?**

To ensure new staff and residents have access to COVID-19 vaccine after the federal Pharmacy Partnership for LTC Program is completed, LTCFs should work with a LTC pharmacy that is enrolled as a COVID-19 vaccination provider. Many pharmacies are enrolled with the federal government as COVID-19 vaccination providers through the [Federal Retail Pharmacy Program](#) and will be able to order vaccine directly from the federal government. Others may enroll directly with the state or territory in which they are located. CDC will provide more detailed guidance in the coming weeks on next steps for COVID-19 vaccination in LTCFs after the federal Pharmacy Partnership for LTC Program concludes. Check the [program website](#) for updates.

*\*A LTC pharmacy is a specialized pharmacy designed specifically to support individuals living in a LTC facility or community.*