**COVID-19 Vaccine**

**General Information**

**COVID-19 Vaccination**

**Overview and General Information**

The spread of COVID-19 from the community and within the nursing facility has been challenging. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicate, “More than 200,000 long-term care facility (LTCF) residents and staff have died due to COVID since the start of the pandemic”1

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) “COVID-19 Vaccines for Long-term Care Residents” indicates:

* “COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective – especially against becoming seriously ill, being hospitalized and dying – and very important for older adults.
* Older adults and people with certain health conditions are more likely to get very sick from COVID-19.
* COVID-19 vaccines can help keep you from getting seriously ill if you do get COVID-19.”2

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) indicates, “Hospitalizations and deaths from COVID-19 currently remain relatively low nationwide. This is a testament to the tools and protections in place today, particularly the work that federal, state, local, and private partners have done to get over 226 million people vaccinated and over 111 million boosted.”3

The current types of COVID-19 Vaccines available are listed on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Website at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/different-vaccines/overview-COVID-19-vaccines.html>

CMS indicates, “In order to protect LTC residents from COVID-19, each facility must develop and implement policies and procedures that meet each resident’s, resident representative’s, and staff member’s information needs and provides vaccines to all residents and staff that elect them.”4

**Competencies which may be associated with COVID-19 Vaccine include but are not limited to:**

* Understanding of the various COVID-19 Vaccines available for use in the United States
* Resident/Resident Representative and Employee Education
* Employee Education
* Resident Assessment
* Proper use of Personal Protective Equipment
* Knowledge of Proper Hand Hygiene Practices
* Monitoring Following Vaccine Administration
* Observation and Management of Anaphylaxis
* Cleaning and Disinfection
* Reporting
  + Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS)
* Documentation

**References and Resources:**

1Chidambaram, P. “Over 200,000 Residents and Staff in Long-Term Care Facilities Have Died from COVID-19.” Kaiser Family Foundation, Feb 03, 2022: <https://www.kff.org/policy-watch/over-200000-residents-and-staff-in-long-term-care-facilities-have-died-from-covid-19/>

2 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. COVID-19 Vaccines for Long-term Care Residents, Updated Nov. 18, 2022: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/LTCF-residents.html>

3Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. QSO-23-02-ALL, Revised Guidance for Staff Vaccination Requirements. October 26, 2022: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qs0-23-02-all.pdf>

4Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. QSO-21-19-NH. Interim Final Rule – COVID-19 Vaccine Immunization Requirements for Residents and Staff. May 11, 2021: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-21-19-nh.pdf>

5Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. QSO-23-02-ALL. Revised Guidance for Staff Vaccination Requirements, October 26, 2022: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qs0-23-02-all.pdf>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Overview of COVID-19 Vaccines, Updated Nov. 1, 2022: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/different-vaccines/overview-COVID-19-vaccines.html>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Stay Up to Date with COVID-19 Vaccines Including Boosters, Updated Nov. 1, 2022: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html>

United States Health and Human Services. Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS): <https://vaers.hhs.gov/>

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