

## Accessing COVID-19 Vaccines in Long-Term Care Facilities

Until early April, the Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care Program facilitated on-site COVID-19 vaccination of residents and staff at participating long-term care facilities through three on-site vaccination clinics. Although these vaccination clinics have concluded, all nursing home and assisted living facility residents and staff can receive a COVID-19 vaccine from the long-term care facility where they live or work. Through means outlined on [this CDC webpage](#), long-term care facilities can access COVID-19 vaccines in the following three ways:

- 1. A long-term care facility can receive COVID-19 vaccines from a long-term care pharmacy that is an enrolled COVID-19 vaccination provider with their state or territory.** A long-term care pharmacy is a pharmacy designed to meet the needs of long-term care residents.
  - a. Facilities can coordinate directly with participating long-term care pharmacies to access COVID-19 vaccines and plan vaccination clinics.
  - b. A long-term care pharmacy not enrolled as a COVID-19 vaccine provider with their state or territory should visit their [state's immunization program website](#) to explore becoming a COVID-19 vaccination provider.
  
- 2. A Long-term care facility can receive COVID-19 vaccines from a long-term care pharmacy that is an enrolled COVID-19 provider through the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program.** The Federal Retail Pharmacy Program is a partnership between the federal government, state and territorial governments, and national and independent pharmacy networks to distribute COVID-19 vaccines to the American public. Based upon vaccine availability, the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program distributes vaccines to participating long-term care pharmacies.
  - a. Facilities can work directly with a long-term care pharmacy participating in the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program to access COVID-19 vaccines and plan vaccination clinics. A list of participating long-term care pharmacies can be found [here](#).
  - b. A long-term care pharmacy not enrolled as a COVID-19 vaccine provider through the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program should visit their [state's immunization program website](#) to explore becoming a COVID-19 vaccination provider.
  
- 3. A Long-term care facility can receive the COVID-19 vaccine by enrolling with their state or territory to become a COVID-19 vaccination provider.**
  - a. The process for a facility to become a COVID-19 provider varies by state. To find out more information, the facility should contact their [state's immunization program](#).

### Applicability to Long-Term Care Residents and Staff

Any long-term care resident or staff person interested in receiving a COVID-19 vaccine should ask their long-term care facility's administrator or nurse to arrange vaccine access. If their facility does not provide access to a COVID-19 vaccine upon request, that individual should contact their long-term care ombudsman or state Department of Health. Contact information for state specific long-term care ombudsman and other advocacy resources to ensure quality long-term care access can be found on the [Get Help](#) resource page of The National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care website.