



Department of Health

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

HOWARD A. ZUCKER, M.D., J.D.
Commissioner

LISA J. PINO, M.A., J.D.
Executive Deputy Commissioner

February 4, 2021

Re: NH-21-04 Skilled Nursing Facility Vaccine
Post Long Term Care Federal Program

Dear Nursing Home Administrator:

NYS DOH is committed to working together with your facility to ensure continued access to COVID-19 vaccination for your residents and staff on an ongoing basis once the federal Long Term Care Facility program in partnership with pharmacies has been completed.

To this end, our objective is to ensure every Skilled Nursing Facility licensed by NYS DOH has a clinical partner or the clinical capabilities to provide vaccinations for residents and staff on an ongoing basis as new residents/staff are admitted/hired or become eligible or accepting of the vaccine.

NYS DOH will be using a supplemental survey, as well as the daily HERDS survey, to assess each SNFs ability to administer the vaccine (through in-house clinical staff or third party clinical partner) and ensure NYS DOH has data in a real-time basis regarding how many vaccine doses are required to be provided to each SNF or their clinical provider to ensure all residents and staff willing to be vaccinated have access to vaccine.

NYS DOH is planning to enact programs in the near future to help bolster vaccination access for residents and staff at SNFs including regulatory actions to ensure all residents and staff have vaccination opportunity. Your commitment to arranging and/or confirming your facility's vaccine administration capabilities, either through in-house clinical staff or third party clinical partners, is a critical element in our collective objective of ensuring all residents and staff of your facility have access to vaccine and family members of your residents and the general public have confidence in the measures being taken to ensure safety amongst this vulnerable population. If you are unable to ensure, either through your in-house clinical capabilities or third party clinical provider, the ability to vaccinate new staff or residents, it is imperative DOH is informed of this so we can work with you to address.



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NYS DOH is committed in our desire to partner with you to ensure each and every resident and staff member of your facility has access to vaccination. Please direct all and any comments, questions, concerns to covidnursinghomeinfo@health.ny.gov

Sincerely,

Sheila McGarvey, RN BSN, Director
Division of Nursing Homes and ICF/IID
Surveillance
Center for Health Care Provider Services
and Oversight
Office of Primary Care and Health Systems
Management