



Department of Health

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

MARY T. BASSETT, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner

KRISTIN M. PROUD
Acting Executive Deputy Commissioner

Date: September 19, 2022
DAL: DHDC 22-09
ACF 22-38
NH 22-19
Subject: COVID-19 Vaccination and Booster Doses

Dear Chief Executive Officers and Administrators:

Hospitals

The New York State Department of Health (“Department”) continues to recognize COVID-19 as an ongoing threat to the health of long-term care facility residents and staff. The purpose of this letter is to remind all Article 28 general hospitals of the Department’s requirement that hospitals offer the COVID-19 vaccine to all patients who are medically eligible and consent to vaccination before discharging the patient to a nursing home or other long-term care facility, i.e., an adult care facility (ACF) including an assisted living residence.

To ensure long-term care facility residents are vaccinated before discharge from a hospital, hospitals must offer and administer COVID-19 vaccination to all patients who are eligible and consent to vaccination before discharge to a long-term care facility. Further, hospitals should provide clear documentation to receiving nursing homes and ACFs of the patient’s vaccination status as applicable, including but not limited to, the specific vaccine administered, the date administered, whether a second dose needs to be administered by the nursing home or ACF, and time frame for the second dose or booster dose. Please clearly communicate this requirement to all staff who are administering or distributing vaccines and to discharge planners who may be working on securing long-term care facility placement.

Nursing Homes and Adult Care Facilities

Be advised that all long-term care facilities are expected to exercise diligence, act proactively and document efforts to ensure all residents and staff who are eligible and consent to vaccination remain up to date with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommended COVID-19 vaccine doses, including all CDC recommended updated (bivalent) booster doses. Nursing homes and ACFs are reminded that the Department continues to endorse CDC recommendations that everyone stay up to date with all CDC recommended COVID-19 vaccinations, including all primary series doses and booster doses when eligible.

In addition, nursing homes, consistent with regulations found at 10 NYCRR Subpart 66-4.2., should be continually reviewing the vaccination status of all residents and staff and should offer and administer CDC recommended primary series or booster doses of COVID-19 vaccine to eligible nursing home residents and staff willing to receive the vaccination.

Likewise, and consistent with regulations found at 10 NYCRR, Subpart 66-4.2. the operator and administrator of every ACF regulated pursuant to Parts 487, 488 and 490 of Title 18

of the NYCRR and Part 1001 of this Title shall make diligent efforts to arrange for all consenting, existing personnel and residents to register for a vaccine appointment to receive any CDC recommended primary series or booster dose of COVID-19 vaccination when eligible, and shall document attempts to schedule and methods used to schedule the vaccine in the individual's personnel file or case management notes, as applicable.

Further, the Department reminds long term care facilities that we are entering influenza season, and the requirement for annual influenza vaccination remains in effect. It may be useful to coordinate the COVID-19 booster and influenza vaccination clinics for efficiency. According to CDC, influenza and COVID-19 vaccines can be administered at the same time (<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/season/faq-flu-season-2021-2022.htm>).

Finally, please be reminded that ACFs should continue to work with their local health departments in the event of a communicable disease outbreak, including for COVID-19 and influenza.

Hospitals with questions should outreach covidhospitaldtcinfo@health.ny.gov. Long term care facilities with questions may contact the Bureau of Immunization at COVID19vaccine@health.ny.gov or the applicable mailbox consistent with their facility type: covidadultcareinfo@health.ny.gov or covidnursinghomeinfo@health.ny.gov.

Sincerely,

Dr. John Morley
Deputy Commissioner
Office of Primary Care and
Health Systems Management

Adam Herbst
Deputy Commissioner
Office of Aging and Long-Term Care

cc: COVID19vaccine@health.ny.gov
covidhospitaldtcinfo@health.ny.gov

Resources: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html>;
<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/downloads/COVID-19-vacc-schedule-at-a-glance-508.pdf>.