

ForwardHealth **ALERT**

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TO

All Providers, HMOs and Other Managed Care Programs

REGARDING

Wisconsin COVID-19 Vaccine Program Enrollment Now Open

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The following information is to raise awareness about how providers can enroll to become a COVID-19 vaccine provider once the vaccine is made available. Please share as appropriate.

Time Sensitive: There is a November 6, 2020, deadline for skilled nursing and assisted living facilities to sign up for the Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care Program. Refer to the Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities section of this Alert for more information.

COVID-19 Vaccinator Enrollment

The Wisconsin COVID-19 Vaccine Program is now enrolling providers.

Providers who enroll in the Wisconsin COVID-19 Vaccine Program will be approved to administer COVID-19 vaccine once a safe and effective vaccine is made available. The COVID-19 vaccine will not be available for private purchase; it will only be available for delivery through the Wisconsin COVID-19 Vaccine Program.

Providers Who Should Enroll

Enrollment is open to all providers that will vaccinate against COVID-19 such as health care systems, health care providers, pharmacies, local and tribal health departments, mass vaccination sites, and long-term care facilities and assisted living facilities that are not participating in the [Pharmacy Partnership for Long Term Care Program](#).

Providers interested in enrolling to administer the COVID-19 vaccine should review the [COVID-19 Vaccine Planning document](#), which is based on planning assumptions from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). If providers find that they meet the requirements, they should enroll as soon as possible, especially if they plan to vaccinate priority populations such as health care workers, essential workers, or people 65 and older.

Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care Program

Through the CDC's Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care Program, nursing homes and assisted living facilities can partner with CVS or Walgreens pharmacies to manage and administer COVID-19 vaccine to their residents.

CVS and Walgreens pharmacy sites: These pharmacy providers will not need to enroll in the Wisconsin COVID-19 Vaccination Program at this time because their national chains have a direct contract with CDC to provide vaccines during the first phase of vaccinations through the Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care Program. The Wisconsin Department of Health Services will communicate with these providers in later phases when it is time for them to enroll in the Wisconsin COVID-19 Vaccination Program.

Nursing homes and assisted living facilities: The Wisconsin Department of Health Services recommends that nursing homes or assisted living facilities that have not yet identified a vaccinator for their residents participate in the [Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care Program](#).

Using the appropriate links below, facilities **should provide the requested information by November 6, 2020**, to either opt in or out of the CDC's Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care Program:

- **Nursing homes** choose their selection through the [National Healthcare Safety Network \(NHSN\)](#). A nursing home or skilled nursing facility must be [enrolled in the NHSN Long-Term Care Facilities COVID-19 module](#) to be able to make a selection of COVID-19 vaccine pharmacy providers. An alert will be incorporated into the NHSN Long-Term Care Facilities COVID-19 module to guide users to the form.
- **Assisted living** facilities make their selection via an online [REDcap sign-up form](#).

Pharmacies: Local pharmacies that wish to provide COVID-19 vaccines and are not part of the Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care Program will need to enroll in the Wisconsin COVID-19 Vaccine Program. If nursing homes or assisted living facilities wish to work with a pharmacy that is neither Walgreens nor CVS to vaccinate their residents, that pharmacy partner will need to enroll in the Wisconsin COVID-19 Vaccine Program.

Enrolling in the Wisconsin COVID-19 Vaccine Program

To enroll in the Wisconsin COVID-19 Vaccine Program, follow the steps outlined on the [COVID-19: Program Information for Vaccinators web page](#).

Receipt of COVID-19 Vaccine

After completing enrollment and obtaining approval from the Wisconsin COVID-19 Vaccine Program, providers will receive the COVID-19 vaccine as supply allows. During the first phases of vaccination, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services anticipates that the Wisconsin COVID-19 Vaccine Program will be allocated a limited supply of the COVID-19 vaccine; therefore, recommendations will be limited to certain priority groups. The program plans to focus shipments of vaccine to providers that can vaccinate those early priority groups.

Over time, as vaccine supply increases, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services anticipates vaccine allocations and recommendations will expand to other groups and shipments will be made to a broader group of providers.

For More Information

Providers with questions about the Wisconsin COVID-19 Vaccine Program may contact dhscovidvaccinator@dhs.wisconsin.gov.