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**Department
of Health**

COVID-19 Vaccine

What Nursing Home Workers Need to Know

Presentation to 1199SEIU – December 16, 2020

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Welcome & Overview

The New York State COVID-19 Vaccination Program was developed to ensure the distribution and administration of a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine to all residents of New York State who wish to receive it. The program was designed to provide flexibility based on the many unknowns at the time.

Today's objective: provide a high level overview of the vaccination plan as we prepare to vaccinate approximate 90,000 nursing home residents and more than 131,000 nursing home employees.

CDC COVID-19 Prioritization

ACIP Phase 1a Prioritization Recommendations

- The CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted on December 1, 2020 to recommend that when a COVID-19 vaccine is authorized by FDA and recommended by ACIP, vaccination in the initial phase of the COVID-19 vaccination program (Phase 1a) should be offered to both 1) healthcare personnel* and 2) residents of long-term care facilities**

*The ACIP defined healthcare personnel as paid and unpaid persons serving in health care settings who have the potential for direct or indirect exposure to patients or infectious materials.

**The ACIP defined long-term care facility residents as adults who reside in facilities that provide a variety of services, including medical and personal care, to persons who are unable to live independently.

Overview of CDC Pharmacy Partnership Program

Pharmacy Partnership for LTCF Program

- CDC contracted with CVS and Walgreens (and a few other pharmacies) to administer COVID-19 vaccine in long-term care facilities (LTCFs) nationwide
- Involves end-to-end management of COVID-19 vaccination process for LTCFs
- On-site vaccinations for all residents and staff not already vaccinated
- Fulfillment of reporting requirements

Federal LTCF Program in NYS

- Nearly 100% of skilled nursing facilities/nursing homes enrolled in the Federal program!
- On Friday, December 4, 2020 NYS officially requested activation of the Federal program as of the first available date – December 21, 2020.
- NYS authorized the transfer of the necessary doses of Pfizer vaccine to the pharmacies to implement the program.

Key Points for Staff

- Vaccine has been shown to be 95% effective in preventing SARS-CoV-2 infection in clinical trial participants.
 - There was no difference based on age, gender, race, and ethnicity.
- Participation is voluntary
- Two doses of the same vaccine are required to build immunity
- You must plan to return to the same place where you received your first dose for your second dose.

Safety and Side Effects

- To date, NO serious safety concerns observed
- YOU CANNOT GET COVID FROM THE VACCINE!
- Most “adverse events” were mild to moderate and resolved in 1-2 days
 - Pain, Fever, Chills, Fatigue, Headache
- This means your immune system is working!

Vaccination at Nursing Homes

The Pharmacy Partner will make 3 visits to the facility:

- Visit 1: Administer 1st dose to group 1
- Visit 2: Administer 2nd dose to group 1
Administer 1st dose to group 2
- Visit 3: Administer 2nd dose to group 2
- Group 1 = all residents present, clinically eligible and consented PLUS approximately 1/3 of staff
- Group 2 = new residents, returning residents that were not on site visit 1, newly eligible/consented that were not as of visit 1

Who gets vaccinated first?

- Considerations:
 - Any staff (not only clinicians) who work in an area where transmission is higher (ex. unit where aerosolizing procedures are performed)
 - Paid and unpaid persons who have the potential for direct or indirect exposure to patients or infectious materials
 - Exposure to the public occurs in an uncontrolled way (reception areas, cafeterias etc.)
 - Staff who routinely touch shared surfaces or common items
 - Do not vaccinate more than one-third of the staff on a particular ward, unit or floor to mitigate potential staff absenteeism issues

What about the other 2/3 of staff?

- Approximately 2/3 of staff will not be vaccinated at the time the residents are.
- It is our intent that ALL staff who wish to be vaccinated will be provided the opportunity to do so within 30 days.
- Options for these staff vaccinations may include:
 - Enrolling the NH as a COVID-19 vaccine provider with NYS so they may receive and administer their own supply of vaccine.
 - Staff may be vaccinated at a regional health care hub partner site or another regional vaccination network provider
 - NYSDOH may arrange with the local health department to vaccinate on-site at the facility
 - NYSDOH may arrange with a pharmacy provider (enrolled in the NYS COVID-19 Vaccination Program) to vaccinate on-site at the facility
 - NYSDOH may also open commercial pharmacy sites as potential administration sites for staff.

Timeline of COVID-19 Vaccine Related Events

- **Friday, November 20, 2020:** Pfizer files EUA package to the FDA
- **Monday, November 30, 2020:** Moderna files EUA package to the FDA.
- **Thursday, December 10, 2020:** Public meeting of the VRBPAC regarding Pfizer's EUA submission – VRBPAC concluded that based on the totality of scientific evidence available, the benefits of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine outweigh its risks for use in individuals 16 years of age and older.
- **Friday, December 11, 2020:** FDA Emergency use Authorization (EUA) granted
- **Saturday, December 12, 2020:** Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) clinical use recommendations on Pfizer's vaccine released
- **Monday, December 14, 2020:** First deliveries of COVID-19 vaccine rec'd by NYS hospitals
- **Thursday, December 17, 2020:** Public meeting of the VRBPAC regarding Moderna's EUA submission
- **Friday, December 18 – Monday, December 22, 2020:** Window for FDA EUA authorization and ACIP recommendations on Moderna's vaccine
- **Monday, December 21, 2020** Anticipated first NH based vaccination clinic