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**GREATER NEW YORK HEALTH CARE FACILITIES ASSOCIATION**

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## **Memo 20-37**

**To: Administrator, DNS, Medical Director, Infection Preventionist and QA Committee**

**From: Mary Gracey-White RN, Director of Regulatory Compliance**

**Date: October 20, 2020**

**Re: Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care Program**

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Long Term Care (LTC) facilities can sign up, beginning yesterday, for the new voluntary COVID-19 vaccine program for nursing homes being offered by HHS. Facilities can register within the next 2 weeks for the Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care Program via the National Health and Safety Network (NHSN) [HERE](#). As you may be aware, federal health officials unveiled a plan last week to get vaccines to nursing home residents free of charge when they become available. Under this program, vaccines will also be available to any remaining LTC staff members who have not been previously vaccinated. Under the voluntary program, trained staff from CVS and Walgreens would deliver vaccines to each nursing home and administer shots. Nursing home staffers can be vaccinated too if they have not already been. Please note, indicating interest in participating is non-binding and facilities may change their selection or opt-out via email once the online surveys.

Once nursing homes sign up for the program, the allocation of vaccines will be done through state and territorial governments. When the time comes, CVS and Walgreens will schedule and coordinate on-site clinic date(s) directly with each facility. It is anticipated that three total visits over approximately two months are likely to be needed to administer both doses of vaccine (if indicated) to residents and staff. The pharmacies will also:

- Receive and manage vaccines and associated supplies (e.g., syringes, needles, and personal protective equipment).
- Ensure cold chain management for vaccine.
- Provide on-site administration of vaccine.

- Report required vaccination data (including who was vaccinated, with what vaccine, and where) to the state, local, or territorial, and federal public health authorities within 72 hours of administering each dose.
- Adhere to all applicable Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) requirements for COVID-19 testing for LTCF staff.

Please note, CMS is allowing immunizers to bill Medicare and receive direct reimbursement for vaccinating SNF residents against COVID-19. SNFs can register with the program and can work with pharmacies to distribute the vaccine when available.

Please see the attached program information and FAQs. GNYHCFA will be participating in a call on Thursday, October 22 with the NYSDOH regarding COVID-19 vaccination planning and will provide any updates as received. For additional questions about the Pharmacy Partnership for Long Term Care Facilities Program, please contact [eocevent@cdc.gov](mailto:eocevent@cdc.gov).