

VDH – State Pharmacy Partnership COVID 19 Vaccine
Last Updated: Dec. 14, 2020

- **Can pharmacies who have agreed to participate in the federal partnership also participate in the state partnership?**

Yes, pharmacies may partner with the state to vaccinate even if they have signed an agreement with the federal partnership. When pharmacies are able to start vaccinating under the federal partnership earlier, the pharmacy may continue to partner with the State or elect to only vaccinate under the federal partnership.

- **Can we vaccinate our pharmacy staff who will be vaccinating?**

Healthcare providers who are helping to vaccinate would be prioritized among the HCPs that are direct facing.

The pharmacy should work with their health districts on guidance for the prioritization.

- **When will our non-healthcare worker employees be able to receive vaccine?**

The pharmacy should work with their health districts on guidance for the prioritization. VDH will continue to follow ACIP priority recommendations which have currently been released for Phase 1a and are healthcare workers and LTCF residents/staff. As ACIP begins to define priority groups for Phase 1b and 1c, health districts will advise the further on the prioritization. ACIP may make decisions as early as December 17 on Phase 1b/c.

- **What type of information sharing would be requested of the Pharmacy?**

Information required is listed in the CDC agreement. The Pharmacy would need to submit vaccine administration data to the Virginia Immunization Information System (VIIS) within 24 hours of administration. This requirement was set forth by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Other reporting methods will be in coordination with the local health district. Basic information (non HIPPA information) would be requested by VDH regarding the number of doses administered or dispensed per week and the remaining doses on hand. Reporting methods are currently being considered. Information will be forthcoming.

- **What type of temperature monitoring devices for freezers or refrigerators will be required by VDH?**

The CDC Vaccine Storage and Handling Toolkit has been updated with COVID-19 Vaccine Addendum with information on storage and handling best practices for COVID-19 vaccines. The Addendum will be updated with specific storage and handling information for each COVID -19 product.

Per the CDC COVID-19 vaccination program provider agreement providers are required to: Monitor storage unit temperatures at **all times**, using equipment and practices that comply with the guidance in the toolkit.

- **Will pharmacies be partnered with a specific VDH team?**

Local health districts will work with pharmacies who are able to provide vaccine within their community.

- **Are pharmacies able to bill and receive reimbursement for administration?**

Subject to section 2713 of the Public Health Emergency Act, plans must cover without cost sharing such an immunization and its administration, regardless of how the administration is billed, and regardless of whether a COVID-19 vaccine or any other immunization requires the administration of multiple doses in order to be considered a complete vaccination. Reimbursement for administration of these doses may vary for each dose within the series. VDH is working closely with DMAS and Virginia Association of Health Plans (VAHP) to provide guidance on how to bill and get pharmacies enrolled with Virginia Health Plans so that they will be able to bill accordingly.

- **How will pharmacies be able to submit for vaccine administration or set up invoices for facilities?**

For information on how to submit claims via Pharmacy POS, please review the guidance issued by NCPDP Emergency Prepared task force which can be found at: <file:///C:/Users/bdu47937/Downloads/NCPDP%20Emergency%20Preparedness%20Guidance%20-%20COVID-19%20Vaccines.pdf>

States do not have emergency reimbursement funding set aside for administration fees for vaccinations.