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**Memorandum**

**TO:** Long-Term Care Providers

**FROM:** Margret Cooke, JD, Deputy Commissioner

**SUBJECT:** Federal Pharmacy Partnership Program Discharged Resident Vaccination Update

**DATE:** January 22, 2021

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) continues to work with state, federal and local partners on the outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), caused by the virus SARS-CoV-2, and we continue to appreciate the essential role you have in responding to this evolving situation.

Vaccinating all eligible residents and staff against COVID-19 is crucial to addressing the pandemic. In order to provide COVID-19 vaccination to long-term care facilities in the most expedient manner, DPH encouraged all facilities to enroll in the Federal Pharmacy Partnership Program (FPPP) where pharmacies conduct vaccination clinics at each facility. FPPP is currently underway and many facilities have already hosted their first vaccine clinic.

It is the expectation that long-term care facilities that discharge a resident after they have received their first COVID-19 vaccination make every effort to accommodate the individual's return to the facility to receive their second dose at a follow up FPPP vaccination clinic.

When long-term care facilities are discharging a resident who has received the first dose of COVID-19 vaccination, the discharge instructions should include:

- The date and time to return to the facility for the vaccination clinic, and
- The consent form, if not already completed

The long-term care facility must allow the resident to return to the facility on the day of the vaccination clinic for the purposes of receiving the second dose. If the resident requires the assistance of a caregiver then the facility must allow the caregiver to enter the facility.

It is the responsibility of the vaccinator, which is the pharmacy for purposes of the FPPP, to report vaccine side effects to FDA/CDC Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS). Long-term care facilities should follow up with their partner pharmacy if there are any adverse events.

The VAERS toll-free number is 1-800-822-7967 or report online to <https://vaers.hhs.gov/reportevent.html>.

Please visit DPH's website that provides up-to-date information on COVID-19 and vaccine efforts in Massachusetts: <https://www.mass.gov/2019coronavirus> and <https://www.mass.gov/vaccine>