



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
250 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108-4619

CHARLES D. BAKER
Governor

KARYN E. POLITO
Lieutenant Governor

MARYLOU SUDDERS
Secretary

MARGRET R. COOKE
Commissioner

Tel: 617-624-6000
www.mass.gov/dph

Memorandum

TO: Long-Term Care Facilities
Pharmacies that Service Long-Term Care Facilities

FROM: David Johnson, Director, Drug Control Program
Elizabeth Kelley, MBA, MPH, Director, Bureau of Health Care Safety and Quality
James Lavery, Director, Bureau of Health Professions Licensure
David Sencabaugh, R.Ph., Executive Director, Board of Registration in Pharmacy

SUBJECT: COVID-19 and Influenza Vaccination Guidance

DATE: November 2, 2022

Pursuant to COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Order No. 2021-03, licensed long-term care facilities (“LTCF”) are permitted to possess, store, and administer COVID-19 vaccines without patient specific prescriptions and without a LTCF Massachusetts Controlled Substances Registration (“MCSR”). To ensure that residents and staff at LTCFs have continued access to COVID-19 vaccine moving forward and increased access to influenza vaccine, the Department of Public Health Drug Control Program (“DCP”) will automatically issue a MCSR to all LTCFs with licenses in good standing, allowing facilities to continue to procure, receive, and possess COVID-19 vaccines and to procure, receive, and possess influenza vaccine.

Additionally, DCP will automatically issue limited purpose distributor MCSRs to pharmacies that currently have contractual agreements with LTCFs so that the pharmacy may distribute COVID-19 and influenza vaccines to the LTCF without patient specific prescriptions.

Long term care facilities that receive and possess COVID-19 and influenza vaccine must:

- Comply with all state and federal rules and regulations for security and storage of COVID-19 and influenza vaccine;
- Administer the vaccine pursuant to a valid practitioner’s order;
- Enroll in and comply with all terms of the Massachusetts COVID-19 Vaccination Program (MCVP), which shall include execution of the MCVP Agreement; and
- Report all immunization information as required by law, including G.L. c. 111 § 24M and 105 CMR 222, to the Massachusetts Immunization Information System.

The MCSRs issued to LTCFs will be limited to COVID-19 and influenza vaccine. **This registration does not permit LTCFs to receive or possess any other non-patient specific controlled substances that is not part of the Emergency Kit.**

Similarly, the limited purpose distributor MCSR issued to pharmacies will be limited to distribution of COVID-19 and influenza vaccine to LTCFs. Pharmacies that service LTCFs are not authorized to distribute or dispense any other controlled substance without a patient specific prescription or that is not part of the established Emergency Kit.

The MCSRs described in this guidance will be issued without a fee or application and will be valid for one (1) year and will automatically renew. A PDF copy of the MCSR will be sent via email on Wednesday, November 2, 2022 to facility and pharmacy contacts on file with DPH.

If a LTCF does not have an email on file with DPH, they may confirm their MCSR on DPH's website: [Registration verification for MCSR](#)

Questions should be addressed to DCP.DPH@mass.gov.