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Memorandum

TO: Assisted Living Residences Executive Directors
FROM: Secretary Elizabeth Chen
SUBJECT: Vaccination Options for Assisted Living Residences
DATE: June 22, 2021

Thank you for your work over the past six months to help residents and staff gain access to a COVID vaccine. At this time, one in five adults in the Commonwealth remains unvaccinated against COVID; and we ask for your help to reach any in your communities who are still unvaccinated.

The Executive Office of Elder Affairs (EOEA) is offering the following options to ALRs to assist you in vaccinating residents, staff, private aides, and visitors in the most expedient manner possible. The Commonwealth continues to offer COVID vaccines free of charge.

This memorandum replaces the memorandum issued on March 17th, [Vaccination Opportunities for Assisted Living Residents and Staff following the Federal Pharmacy Partnership Program](#), and reflects flexibilities congruent with increased vaccine supply.

1. Vaccination On-Site at the ALR

- a. ALRs may request a mobile, on-site, vaccination clinic. A vaccination provider will come to the organization's host property to vaccinate a group of individuals. If Moderna or Pfizer is administered, the vaccination provider will return 3-4 weeks later to deliver 2nd doses. Organizations are encouraged to survey individuals and confirm participation prior to requesting a clinic to minimize vaccine waste. ALRs interested in mobile vaccination services may use this form, mass.gov/mobilevaccineform, to submit a request.
- b. Other authorized vaccinators, such as your pharmacy provider, affiliated nursing homes, or health care providers may be able to provide on-site vaccinations.

- c. The Commonwealth's [COVID-19 In-Home Vaccination Program](#) is available for *residents* who are unable to be transported to a vaccine location.
- d. If an ALR is interested in becoming an authorized vaccinator, the following steps should be taken to initiate authorization:
 - i. Sign up for the Massachusetts Immunization Information System (MIIS) at: <https://www.miisresourcecenter.com/>
 - ii. Enroll in the Massachusetts COVID-19 Vaccination Program (MCVP) at: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-covid-19-vaccine-program-mcvc-overview>
 - iii. Review instructions on storage and handling, and administering the vaccine: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/guidance-for-healthcare-providers-and-organizations-0/download>

2. **By Appointment or Walk-in to a Local Vaccinator**

Over 900 retail pharmacies across the Commonwealth now offer vaccinations, in addition to community-based opportunities hosted by Local Boards of Health, and appointments via health care providers. Many locations offer walk-in “no appointment necessary” times.

[VaxFinder.mass.gov](#) enables you to search by zip code or town name; in addition, you can specify other preferences, such as vaccine type or location type (retail pharmacy, health care location, or local board of health). Individuals without access to the internet or who are unable to schedule their appointment online can call toll free 2-1-1 or (877) 211-6277 for assistance.

As a reminder, it is the responsibility of the vaccinator to report vaccine side effects to FDA/CDC Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS).

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

Please visit the Department of Public Health'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>