

Subject: COVID Vaccine Boosters and Congregate Facilities

Dear Connecticut congregate facilities,

As booster vaccines begin to become available, the State of Connecticut is continuing to provide support to ensure that residents living in congregate facilities have access to the COVID-19 vaccine.

As facility leaders, you play an important role in ensuring that your communities are protected against COVID-19. We want to encourage you to make sure that you are supporting the residents and staff of your facilities to receive the first doses of a COVID-19 vaccine if they have not yet, in addition to receiving a booster dose when this is available and recommended. In addition, we further encourage and support you to also make sure your residents receive a seasonal flu vaccine.

There are now hundreds of locations across the State of Connecticut administering COVID vaccines at no cost – please visit ct.gov/covidvaccine to find a site near you and your facility. We encourage you to make plans to support your residents and staff to attend community clinics.

If the residents and staff of your community face barriers accessing a community clinic, then the Connecticut Department of Public Health can help you identify a vaccinators who can conduct an on-site clinic at your facility. This service is available in limited circumstances where attending a public clinic is not feasible.

Please note, booster doses are currently recommended for Americans who are at highest risk for COVID-19, including long-term care facility residents aged 18 years and older (*should get a booster shot*), and people aged 18-64 years at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission (*may get a booster shot*). The recommendations only apply to the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine at this time (see [CDC Statement on ACIP Booster Recommendations](#)).

We expect this recommendation to continue to change over the next weeks – to eventually include specific recommendations for individuals who received Moderna and J&J vaccines as well. It may be most practical to wait until the vast majority of individuals in your facility are subject to a booster recommendation before seeking an on-site clinic. We want to remind you that the initial series of the COVID-19 vaccines remain powerful and effective at preventing severe illness and death.

If your residents cannot easily attend a community clinic (e.g., pharmacy) and you would like to request assistance for an on-site clinic, please submit your request here:

<https://dphsubmissions.ct.gov/CFSLIntakeForm>

Note for Assisted Living Facilities (ALFs), Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs), and Residential Care Homes (RCHs): If you have already submitted a request for assistance through CDC's REDCap Survey (due October 15, 2021) or through the weekly National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) Survey, please do not complete the above form. Your request will be managed through those channels.

Thank you for all you do to keep Connecticut safe and healthy!