

## Federal Pharmacy Partnership Strategy for COVID-19 Vaccination Program

### Summary of Program for Jurisdictions

HHS is partnering with pharmacies to increase access to COVID-19 vaccine once a vaccine is authorized or approved and recommended for use in the United States. Through the **Federal Pharmacy Partnership Strategy for COVID-19 Vaccination**, select pharmacy partners will receive a direct allocation of COVID-19 vaccine. This will help jurisdictions augment access to vaccine when supply increases and vaccine is recommended beyond the initial critical populations. With more than 86% of people living within five miles of a community pharmacy, pharmacies have unique reach and ability to provide access to COVID-19 vaccine and support broad vaccination efforts. This program will provide critical vaccination services for the U.S. population, with vaccine administered at retail locations at no cost to recipients. The program will be implemented in close coordination with jurisdictions to ensure optimal COVID-19 vaccination coverage and vaccine access nationwide.

The federal allocation to pharmacies will not cover every pharmacy in the United States. Pharmacies not included in the federal allocation program are still encouraged to be part of the vaccination program and should coordinate with their jurisdictions to become COVID-19 vaccination providers.

### Program Benefits

Once we have an adequate supply of COVID-19 vaccine to support broader vaccination efforts, it will be important to swiftly increase access to COVID-19 vaccine for the general population (Phase 2, COVID-19 implementation planning). Partnerships with retail chain pharmacies and networks of community pharmacists in the United States will increase the general population's access to COVID-19 vaccine.

Pharmacists can be crucial public health partners to increase access and convenience of COVID-19 vaccines.

- Pharmacists are trained to provide vaccinations and are important immunizers in their communities.
- Pharmacists are a trusted health resource in their communities, and play a vital role in the public health response to COVID-19 by counseling patients and administering tests.
- Pharmacies have the capability to quickly surge and meet demand nationwide because of existing infrastructure and the large number of pharmacists who can administer vaccines.
- CDC has worked extensively with pharmacy chains to improve pandemic preparedness, conduct vaccine throughput exercises, and assess store and organizational response capabilities.

### Program Participants

Retail chain pharmacies and networks of community pharmacists are being considered for this program. As of Monday, October 26, the following pharmacy partners have signed on to participate in this program:

- Walgreens
- CVS Health Corporation
- Walmart Stores, Inc (including Sam's)
- Rite Aid Corp

October 26, 2020

- The Kroger Co (i.e., Kroger, Harris Teeter, Fred Meyer, Frys, Ralphs, King Soopers, Smiths, City Market, Dillons, Marianos, Pick-n-Save, Copps, Metro Market)
- Publix
- Costco
- Albertsons Companies (i.e., Osco, Jewel-Osco, Albertsons, Albertsons Market, Safeway, Tom Thumb, Star Market, Shaws, Haggen, Acme, Randalls, Carrs, Market Street, United, Vons, Pavilions, Amigos, Lucky's, Pak n Save, Sav-On)
- Hy-Vee
- Meijer
- H-E-B
- Retail Business Services (i.e., Food Lion, Giant Food, The Giant Company, Hannaford Bros Co, Stop & Shop)

Together, these pharmacy partners will extend the COVID-19 vaccination provider network to over 35,000 store locations. Store lists for each of these partners will be shared with jurisdictions. Additional partners are also expected to sign on, further expanding the program. Details on additional partners will be shared with jurisdictions as soon as they are available.

Based on their (1) size and reach, (2) capability to store vaccines and ensure cold chain management, (3) ability to meet data reporting requirements to jurisdictions and CDC, and (4) estimated daily number of doses each facility is able to administer, these partners stand ready to assist jurisdictions in COVID-19 vaccination efforts.

## Program Implementation

- Pharmacy partners must sign a COVID-19 pharmacy partner agreement to participate. Before receiving COVID-19 vaccine, the partner must propose, in writing, its minimum capacity for vaccine administration, including a) the number and location of facilities that will administer COVID-19 vaccine, b) the estimated number of COVID-19 vaccine doses that each facility will be able to administer within defined periods, and c) estimated cold chain storage capacity.
- Pharmacy partners will directly order and receive allocation of COVID-19 vaccine from the federal government.
- Vaccine will be provided at no cost to the pharmacy chain and will be administered at retail locations at no cost to vaccine recipients.
- On a daily basis, pharmacy partners must report to CDC the number of doses of COVID-19 vaccine a) ordered by store location in VTrcks and b) on hand in each store reported through VaccineFinder. Pharmacy providers will also be required to report CDC-defined data elements related to vaccine administration to jurisdiction IISs or through other agreed upon methods (e.g., formatted data extracts) to jurisdictions if IIS reporting is not available.
- Pharmacy partners will provide a point of contact for reach jurisdiction for questions related to allocation of vaccine in store locations in their jurisdiction area.
- Jurisdictions may choose to opt out of having pharmacies in their area receive allocations through this program.

For questions about the Federal Pharmacy Partnership Strategy for COVID-19 Vaccination Program, please contact [eocevent481@cdc.gov](mailto:eocevent481@cdc.gov).