



## AmerisourceBergen-CDC Federal Partnership Still on Track for Phase 2

### What's new in this issue:

- Federal Retail Pharmacy program to start
- Update on vaccine timing

### Also in this issue:

- Specific requirements to receive vaccine allocation
- Additional requirements/ best practices
- [EUA Fact sheet](#) guidelines
- Marketing resources and training
- Vaccine website resources/ questions

## Federal Retail Pharmacy Program–Phase 1 Soft Launch

President Biden [announced](#) today that starting as soon as next week, the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program will soft launch its support of Phase 1 and select pharmacies nationwide will receive a very limited COVID-19 vaccine allocation and can begin offering vaccinations for their patients who meet the guidelines of their local jurisdiction. The program will be implemented incrementally over the next several weeks and months based on the available supply of COVID-19 vaccines.

Because AmerisourceBergen has a seat at the table, some of our Federal Retail Pharmacy Program participants were selected by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in conjunction with local jurisdictions to provide Phase 1 support because of the ability of pharmacies to equitably, quickly, and efficiently serve local, hard-to-reach priority populations that are at risk for severe illness.

With the start of this program, AmerisourceBergen will formally begin its role as a “network administrator” and place orders with the CDC on behalf of a small subset of eligible and qualified *Good Neighbor Pharmacy* and Elevate Provider Network members in Kentucky, Kansas, Nebraska, Texas and Guam, selected by the CDC. **Selected pharmacies will be notified by Good Neighbor Pharmacy this week and provided with additional information on next steps.**

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 vaccine roll-out, we have seen independent community pharmacists step up in a major way to support their states and the Federal Long-Term Care program to help get more shots in arms. We are pleased to see the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program kick off and give more independent community pharmacies the opportunity to join in this massive national inoculation movement. **We know that this is just the start of the program, but it's encouraging to see a small number of our member pharmacies get pulled forward to support Phase 1.** We'll continue to prepare for more pharmacies to be activated as the federal program expands in either Phase 1 or Phase 2.

## Update on Phase 2 vaccine timing - More time, but you need to act quickly

We are still working closely with the CDC on our Phase 2 partnership which is progressing on track, and while we do not yet have a firm Phase 2 launch date, we know that the timing between the announced launch date and the rollout of vaccine shipments to our participating pharmacies will be rapid – most likely in a matter of a couple of days. *That's why we are urging any of our participating members who have not yet completed all the requirements to receive vaccine allocation to do so immediately.*

## Task list for participants: Requirements to receive vaccine allocation

Have you completed all the required steps to receive allocation? Below is list of prioritized steps to ensure that you can receive COVID-19 vaccine allocation when the CDC notifies us that we can participate.

- **VaccineFinder registration** – pharmacies must register a separate account for the Federal Phase 2 Program. If you did not receive a registration email from VaccineFinder, contact [vaccinefinder@castlighthealth.com](mailto:vaccinefinder@castlighthealth.com). [Click here](#) for a VaccineFinder user guide.
- **Immunization Information System (IIS) setup** – pharmacies must be able to report to their local IIS. Local IIS contacts are [listed here](#).
- **Completion of mandatory CDC Training through GNPUniversity.**
- **Scheduling** – The CDC is requiring appointments for all COVID19 vaccinations, and pharmacies must have a plan in place for second-dose scheduling. Suggested vendors are listed in our [Implementation Guide](#).
- **Patient Screening Requirement** – Pharmacies must have the capability to screen patients and determine eligibility for the vaccine based on the state or local jurisdiction's requirements. Ensure that all guidance from the state and/or local jurisdiction is reflected in your screening form.
- **Additional details and requirements can be found in the [Implementation Guide](#).** Be sure to refresh the browser after opening this resource to ensure you are viewing the latest version.

*Note: Some of these steps only need to be completed once.*

## Additional requirements, materials, and best practices as you prepare to deploy in your pharmacy

**Patients must receive the relevant [EUA Fact sheet](#) prior to their COVID-19 Vaccination Appointment.** It's recommended that you leverage your scheduling tool to provide the EUA Fact sheet and other required paperwork to patients when they schedule their appointments. Suggested scheduling tools and a list of all required paperwork are available in our [Implementation Guide](#). Additional technology may also be used to share the EUA Fact Sheet proactively, including but not limited to your website, social media, or app.

**Ensure that you have a plan in place for second-dose scheduling.** There is a high demand for the vaccine in many areas and planning how you communicate with and schedule patients will help streamline their expectations and experience.

**Think proactively about a patient observation area.** Patients must be monitored for adverse events for at least 15 minutes post-vaccination within line of sight to the clinician. This space must also allow patients to be socially distanced at least six feet apart.

**Determine your marketing strategy for the COVID-19 vaccine.** Social media is one of the quickest methods of communication to keep your patients informed with news about the vaccine. Keep social media up to date with details on scheduling guidance, vaccine education, and more.

**Marketing materials are now available** on [Brand Central Station](#) and [SOCi](#) in the “COVID-19 Vaccine” libraries. Elevate members can access marketing materials in the [Patient Engagement Center](#). Participating *Good Neighbor Pharmacy* members will receive COVID-19 vaccine materials in the March Front-End Kit the week of February 22. We recommend that marketing efforts coincide with additional product available to patients in the market.

## Resources

Visit the [COVID-19 Vaccine Webpage](#) regularly for the most up-to-date resources and past issues of this newsletter. Be sure to refresh the browser after opening each resource to ensure you are viewing the most up-to-date version.

- [COVID-19 Vaccine Implementation Guide](#)
- [CDC Required COVID-19 Vaccine Training Access Guide](#)
- [COVID-19 Program FAQ](#)
- Access marketing materials on [Brand Central Station](#) and [SOCi](#)
- *Elevate members can also access marketing materials in the [Patient Engagement Center](#)*

## Have questions?

Please continue to reach out to [COVIDvaccines@AmerisourceBergen.com](mailto:COVIDvaccines@AmerisourceBergen.com) with questions. If for any reason you no longer wish to participate in our Federal Network Administrator program, please email your sales executive.