



Federal Pharmacy Partnership Strategy for COVID-19 Vaccination

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Fearless Pharmacy

Fearless Pharmacies always stand up for their patients! Every one of you is doing great work in your community -- going above and beyond every day for your patients. Thank you!

"We're always having to educate our patients, advocate for them, and look out for them because nobody else will. It's our job to help them stay current, help them get on that list, and help them get the vaccine, because they need it." Chichi Ilonzo Momah, COO and Pharmacist-in-Charge, Springfield Pharmacy, Springfield, PA [#fearlesspharmacy](#)

Frequently asked question of the week

Q: Why are pharmacies who enrolled with state plans receiving the vaccine before pharmacies who choose a Federal Program?

*A: The Good Neighbor Pharmacy Federal Retail Pharmacy Program is for **Phase 2** allocation and distribution. We are currently still in Phase 1, which is being handled by the states/jurisdictions. Pharmacies are welcome to sign up for both State/Jurisdictional allocations as well as allocations through the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program administered by AmerisourceBergen and Good Neighbor Pharmacy.*

Because AmerisourceBergen has a seat at the table, some of our Federal Retail Pharmacy Program participants were selected by the CDC in conjunction with a very small number of local jurisdictions to provide Phase 1 support. We'll continue to prepare for more pharmacies to be activated as the federal program expands. For now, activation has only happened in these few jurisdictions.

Updates from Jenni Zilka during 03/09/21 townhall

On Tuesday, March 9 we hosted a townhall with updates from Jenni Zilka. If you missed the townhall, or want to watch it again, you can [watch it here](#).

Marketing tip of the week

Consider your communication strategy for the COVID-19 vaccine and which channels you will use to provide updates to patients. An effective communication strategy can help you keep patients informed, set clear expectations, and mitigate calls to your pharmacy. Consider some of the following communication channels: IVR messages, website updates, outbound call or text campaigns, social media, print marketing, and more.

Look for an important email on missing readiness requirements/data

Starting in the next few weeks, we will **email individual participants** who have not completed all readiness requirements in order to **provide customized detailed information on incomplete readiness steps** and/or data for each pharmacy. **Please be on the lookout for this email.** We hope this provides helpful guidance to those pharmacies that wish to be ready in time for Phase 2 allocation. *At this time, due to our CDC agreement, we would not be able to allocate vaccine product to those pharmacies who have not completed all the required steps.*

What are the necessary readiness steps? Read previous newsletters and view our Implementation Guide here for details:

- [Previous newsletters](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Implementation Guide](#)

The highest priority steps are summarized below:

- **Immunization Information System (IIS) setup**
- **Completion of mandatory [CDC Training through GNPUniversity](#)**
- **Scheduling tool** – Note that the CDC is requiring appointments for all COVID19 vaccinations.
- **VaccineFinder Onboarding**

If your VaccineFinder onboarding link is expired, or if you experience technical issues with your VaccineFinder account, please email vaccinefinder@castlighthhealth.com or call 855-886-4317. Include your store name, NCPCP, and include that you're taking part in the Federal Partnership Program with *Good Neighbor Pharmacy* and AmerisourceBergen

Reporting/billing requirements

When your pharmacy starts to receive vaccine allocation, please be prepared to meet the below reporting requirements. More details on the below requirements will be provided when you start to receive allocation but it is recommended that you start to think about changes in workflow now.

- Report vaccine administrations daily to your local IIS.
- Complete billing in your pharmacy management system quickly. For each vaccine administration, be sure you're prepared to input the following fields: Lot number of vaccine, Expiration date of vaccine, Race of patient, Ethnicity of patient. This information is submitted to the CDC daily.
- Report your ON-HAND inventory to VaccineFinder daily.

Billing Requirement: As you prepare to vaccinate, it's critical that you prepare to bill for each vaccination in a timely manner. The CDC is carefully tracking and tracing all product to ensure that it is being deployed responsibly and to report back to the White House. Review the [Implementation Guide](#) for additional billing information.

Steady growth in allocation

We are seeing steady growth in allocation since the program soft launched Phase 1. Consequently, we've been able to add more pharmacies to support Phase 1 each week. Your pharmacy could be contacted to participate at any time, so make sure you're ready! As we've seen with previous rollouts related to Phase 1 support, the turnaround time between notification and shipment of vaccines can be as little as 24 hours. Don't miss out just because you weren't prepared at the crucial time.

Please see [this previous newsletter](#) for a more detailed summary of what to expect once we can allocate vaccine inventory to your pharmacy.

Resources

Visit the [COVID-19 Vaccine Webpage](#) regularly for the latest 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 Billing and Reimbursement Guide](#) from NCPA
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Implementation Guide](#)
- [CDC-Required COVID-19 Vaccine Training Access Guide](#)
- [COVID-19 Program FAQ](#)
- [COVID-19 Marketing Resources and Updates](#)
- Elevate members can also access marketing materials in the [Patient Engagement Center](#)

The CDC has provided these optional training webinars for the rest of the week:
Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine: Information for Healthcare Providers Administering Vaccine

- Thursday 03/11/2021 at 7:00 PM ET
- Friday 03/12/2021, 1:00 PM ET

Registration: www.JanssenCOVID19VaccineWebinar.com

Have questions?

Please continue to reach out to 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.