



Get ready for vaccination with these updates

In this issue:

- Fearless Pharmacy
- Steady growth in allocation
- Allocation clarification / communication updates
- Frequently asked question
- Missing requirements/data emails
- Marketing tip
- Reporting/billing requirements
- [Link to previous newsletters](#)
- Vaccine website resources / questions

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!

"Vaccines are something we handle every day. This one does present some more issues due to its storage requirements being pretty strenuous. But, we are ready for it. That's why pharmacies were chosen, because we are the experts in the supply chain of medications and vaccines." - Rian Snell, Director of Clinical Services, Woodsprings Pharmacy, Jonesboro, Arkansas [#fearlesspharmacy](#)

Steady growth in allocation

Because AmerisourceBergen has been working closely with the CDC to prepare for Phase 2 of the COVID-19 Vaccine Federal Network Partnership, some participating pharmacies who have completed the readiness steps and who service targeted patient populations have been selected by the CDC in coordination with local jurisdictions to help with Phase 1. Initially, our Phase 1 support included 102 pharmacies in 4 states and Guam. **As of this week, we have more than doubled that with 217 pharmacies in 10 states and Guam and we have allocated 138,000 doses so far!** We expect to continue to expand our Phase 1 support each week, adding additional pharmacies and additional doses at the direction of the CDC. Please note that the CDC is determining all allocation quantities for all entities.

Phase 2 update

Our Federal Partnership was designed and intended for Phase 2. Phase 2 is on track and expected to deploy when there is ample vaccine in the market. When we get the go-ahead for Phase 2, pharmacies who are ready for allocation will begin to receive vaccine product, as supply allows.

Why are some pharmacies getting allocation and not others?

Clarifications

We understand the frustration of those Federal Partnership program participants who have not received vaccine allocation yet see the vaccine available elsewhere. Many pharmacies have had success contracting with their local jurisdiction and providing vaccine through that channel. Also, various US states are moving at a different pace with their priority populations and vaccine availability. All states are not on the same timeline regarding Phase 1. This is a complex program and no doubt you're hearing information from multiple external sources on vaccine deployment. **Know that we have advocated for you with the CDC since the inception of this program and we continue to strongly advocate for vaccine access for independent pharmacy multiple times per week.** *Good Neighbor Pharmacy* will continue to work hard to secure allocation of vaccine for all independents who wish to participate in the federal program

COVID vaccines are not available via typical wholesale distribution channels. All product is under the direction of the CDC and they are directing the allocation and distribution for both the state jurisdictions, as well as the Federal Program in which we are participating. Our efforts to advocate for our customers are paying dividends and we have seen a continuous increase in product allocated to our program in the early Phase 1 stage.

Communication updates

To help further clarify and explain, we are implementing these enhanced communications steps:

- We will continue to send you this **weekly e-newsletter** updating you on our support of Phase 1 and our expectations around Phase 2. Please know that while it may look the same each week, it is updated to provide the most up-to-date information available and the teams work hard to ensure that we are sharing information through this method of communication as it is available to us.
- We will also begin providing a **bi-weekly video update** that will be pushed out through this e-newsletter and on the [vaccine website](#).
- **Program participants that have not completed all readiness steps** will receive weekly customized emails providing detailed specific readiness steps that need to be completed.
- **Program participants that have completed all readiness steps** will receive a weekly touchpoint email to reassure them they are still on the list and to provide other updates as needed.
- **We've improved our [Implementation Guide](#)**, based on your feedback! Please check it out and be sure to Refresh your browser after you link to the guide so that you are looking at the latest new and improved version.

Frequently asked question of the week

Q: How do I know what the required readiness steps are? Are there any resources to help me?

A: This week, we've updated our [Implementation Guide](#), which includes a quick checklist of the required readiness steps, along with all the supporting details to walk you through the readiness preparation process. We strongly encourage you to use this guide and revisit it often, as we are updating it regularly with new information. Refresh your browser after opening the guide to ensure you're looking at the latest version.

Look for an important email on missing readiness requirements

Within the next two 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:

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

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@castlighthalth.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

Marketing tip of the week

Update your patients as quickly as possible if you have new information about the vaccine, supply, or process changes. Social media is one of the quickest and most effective channels to communicate these important updates to patients.

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 workflows now.

- Report vaccine administrations daily to your local IIS.
- **Be sure you can bill under Medicare Part B and HRSA.**
- Prepare to 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.

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 Implementation Guide](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Billing and Reimbursement Guide](#) from NCPA
- [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](#)

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.