



Get ready for vaccination with these updates

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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!

"Healthville Pharmacy thrives on serving the community and we'll continue to do our part to help combat the challenges we all face with the COVID-19 pandemic. At the beginning, we compounded hand sanitizer when there was a shortage. As soon as the vaccine became available, we were among the first to vaccinate. We're persistently responsive when it comes to pushing our community through tough times." Kehinde Busari, Pharmacy Manager, Healthville Pharmacy, Laredo, Texas [#fearlesspharmacy](#)

CDC COVID-19 Vaccine Priorities

The CDC has announced a strong focus beginning in April on socially vulnerable populations as more education and childcare professionals will complete their vaccinations in March. The CDC has allowed us to steadily increase the number of participating pharmacies receiving allocation for the COVID vaccines in very specific targeted areas. Please make sure your pharmacy is ready to vaccinate – you could be called upon at any time as the program expands. Read below for information on a new initiative we're implementing to help participants pinpoint missing readiness steps and take actions to meet requirements. If you do not want to participate in the program at this time, or if you are not ready to receive vaccines at your pharmacy, email COVIDvaccines@AmerisourceBergen.com for assistance with either putting your participation on hold or terminating it completely.

Frequently asked questions of the week

Q: Can I order COVID-19 vaccines through ABC Order? How does the product get to my pharmacy?

A: Program participants who are selected to receive allocation will be notified via email at the primary email address indicated on the survey response. Vaccine inventory will then be shipped by the CDC contracted distributor or manufacturer directly to the pharmacy. AmerisourceBergen will not control the ship days and will not be physically shipping vaccine inventory.

Note that the timing between allocation notification and shipment can be as little as 24 hours. If you're enrolled in the Federal Pharmacy Partnership with AmerisourceBergen and are not prepared to accept product within 24 hours' notice, email COVIDvaccines@AmerisourceBergen.com for assistance with putting your participation on hold or terminating it completely.

Additionally, **pharmacies will not be able to choose which vaccine they receive or place orders for the product** from the CDC or through ABC Order. The program and contract process are designed for pharmacies who are ready to receive the vaccine on the day the vaccine is available to ship. Each pharmacy's allocation will be based on factors including social vulnerability index as identified by the CDC, vaccine supply, completion of readiness steps, , daily immunization capacity, active patients, geography, and other factors.

Q: What can I do at the state-level to advocate for my pharmacy's access to the vaccine?

A: We understand the frustration of our pharmacies who have not received vaccine allocation yet see the vaccine available elsewhere in the community. All product is under the direction of the CDC and with input from the local jurisdictions/states, they are determining the allocation and distribution for all vaccine. Since the Federal program was pulled forward to assist in Phase 1 on Feb 11, AmerisourceBergen has seen a steady increase in growth and have more than doubled the stores and jurisdictions that the CDC has allowed us to participate in. We know that it is still not enough, and we continue to work with industry partners, the CDC, and individual states to share our expansion requests.

Some of our independent pharmacies have had success continuously reaching out and advocating with local and state health departments regarding their reach in their communities, particularly in socially vulnerable communities. Please know that we have advocated for you with the CDC since the inception of this program and we continue to push for expanded vaccine access each time we connect with the CDC. We hope to continue to expand Phase 1 opportunities as the CDC and local jurisdictions/states allow and move into Phase 2 in the very near future.

Marketing tip of the week

Build up your waitlist in advance so you can hit the ground running when you receive your first allocation!

Look for an important email on missing readiness requirements

Later this week, 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.** 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@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.
- **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.