

## Preparing for the Third COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic and Beyond

Consonus is proud to announce the completion of **567 vaccine clinics** resulting in approximately **44,000 vaccines** administered to seniors and staff in long term care. Consonus Pharmacy has been honored to part of the CDC Federal Pharmacy Partnership Program and trusted to dispense vaccine in senior care facilities and communities.

As you know, pharmacy partners are hosting 3 on-site clinics at long-term care facilities (LTCF) enrolled in the federal Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care (LTC) Program. This program for Covid-19 vaccinations was intentionally designed as a 3 clinic "strike force" program. Below are some FAQs to help administrators and clinical leadership prepare for who may get their COVID-19 vaccine dose at the final clinic and how to prepare for the future.

We are currently working with stakeholders, health departments, trade associations and profession leaders on future state to help devise health policy for the LTC sector on the plan for vaccine maintenance. It is important that we work together to ensure new admissions and employees have a path forward to obtain the vaccine. This lifesaving vaccine is the first step on the road to recovery.

**Q: If LTCF residents and staff have not received a first dose of COVID-19 vaccine, should they receive their first dose at the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final clinic scheduled as part of the Pharmacy Partnership for LTC Program?**

**A:** No. Although the CDC supports optimizing vaccine access for all LTCF staff and residents, some jurisdictions have asked pharmacy partners not to initiate first dose vaccinations at third clinics. Consonus will be scheduling booster shots (2nd dose) only at the 3<sup>rd</sup> clinic.

**Q: If residents cannot get a first dose at the 3<sup>rd</sup> clinic, how should any extra doses of the vaccine be handled after booster shots are complete?**

**A:** Every effort should be made to not waste doses. Some of the ways our clinicians will address extra doses are:

- Evaluate opportunity to use extra doses at a nearby clinic scheduled the next day and vaccinate staff or residents early within the grace period allowed.

- Healthcare workers or ambulatory independent seniors could receive their first dose, but they would be responsible for finding a resource locally, that does not involve Consonus, for their second dose of Pfizer vaccine. Many pharmacies do not stock Pfizer because of the product's unique cold chain requirements, so it is important to determine in advance how they may access their second dose. Contacting their state or local health department is an option.
- Your facility or parent company should have a plan/ protocol around the role you will play in helping seniors find an avenue to second dosing in these situations.

**Q: What if the recipient is unable to get their second Pfizer vaccine dose on day 21?**

**A:** The second dose should be administered as close to the recommended interval as possible. However, if it is not feasible to adhere to the recommended interval and a delay in vaccination is unavoidable, the second dose of vaccine may be administered up to 6 weeks (42 days) after the first dose for "exceptional situations".

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/clinical-considerations.html>

**Q: How can we ensure our facility has continued access to COVID-19 vaccine after the Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care Program is over?**

**A:** To ensure new staff and residents have access to COVID-19 vaccine after the federal Pharmacy Partnership for LTC Program is completed, Consonus is enrolled and approved as a vaccine provider in the next phase. We are working diligently with public health officials to help design this program. We anticipate the CDC will provide more detailed guidance in the coming weeks on next steps for COVID-19 vaccination in LTCFs after the federal Pharmacy Partnership for LTC Program concludes.