

The latest COVID-19 forecast shows we must stay vigilant to slow the fourth surge of the virus. The cases are rising and as long-term care providers we need to act NOW to keep facilities protected. We are concerned that the pace of vaccines is slowing down for seniors. We urge you to not wait to get your vaccine continuity plan in place and activated. Our seniors are vulnerable and if the more contagious variants take hold or if we relax our vigilance in vaccinations, we will see hospitalizations and deaths increase.

As your pharmacy partner, Consonus is prepared to deliver vaccines NOW.

Q: What important updates are there around State Standing Orders to make it easier to facilitate long-term care facilities in acquiring the required epinephrine auto-injectors that are needed on hand for the management of anaphylaxis?

A: COVID-19 vaccination sites are required to have at least three doses of epinephrine available at all times.

In Washington, Secretary Shah has just issued a State Standing Order for LTC communities to order Epi Pens! This means there is no need to find a physician to sign standing orders in WA and facilities have an easy path to activate vaccine delivery.

Click on this link to view the [Washington Standing Orders](#) and scroll down to the "Standing Orders" section.

In Oregon, the draft standing order protocol exists and is going through a final review process. We anticipate this order to be released in the very near future. Until we are able to get a state signed order, the fastest way to start vaccinating is to have a prescriber sign [this order](#) for your facility.

In all other states (AZ/CA/ID/NV), you must have a prescriber sign the Vaccination Administration Reaction Box (VARB) order. Your specific order can be found on our [resource page](#). Scroll down to the section and look for your state specific VARB order. Please note the state would relate to the pharmacy that services you. We will keep you posted, as we learn more about standing orders in these states.

Q: What COVID-19 vaccines do you have available in each State?

A: We are allocated vaccine by State and Federal sources and do not control the product that are received. However, you may request a specific vaccine if we have it available in that state.

Product by pharmacy location:

	California	Nevada	Oregon	Washington
Pfizer	●		●	●
Janssen		●	●	
Moderna				

Q: What is the advantage of the Janssen vaccine?

A: From a safety and effectiveness standpoint, all the vaccines are excellent options. Janssen is the only vaccine that is **one dose**. This is appealing for busy post-acute care facilities to minimize the need for second dose clinics for discharged patients. One shot is also appealing to Assisted Living communities that have limited nursing resources.

Q: If our facility switches to the Janssen vaccine now, will we be able to stay with this product?

A: This is unclear. The Janssen supply is limited and unpredictable. If you switch to Janssen now, you may have to switch back to Pfizer until the Janssen supply chain stabilizes. In Oregon we have not placed constraints on use. It is available on a first come first serve basis....act fast!

Q: Are you concerned about your supply of Pfizer vaccine or securing the booster doses?

A: NO. The Pfizer supply is strong and reliable into the near future. If you want to hold a larger community-based clinic as states open up vaccination eligibility, this is the vaccine you will need to use.

Q: In addressing staff uptake, what should I tell my staff members that are concerned about side effects with the vaccines?

A: The COVID-19 case mortality rate among people 80 and older is 20% — or 1 in 5. The serious risk the virus poses to older adults far outweighs the temporary discomfort and disruption that might be experienced from getting a vaccine. They should get their second shot even if they had side effects after the first shot unless a vaccination provider or your doctor told them not to get it. The second shot with Pfizer should be given in 3 weeks (or 21 days) after the first to be fully immunized. This is important to get the most protection.

Vaccines do not save lives vaccinations do! Download the [Consonus #GetVaccinated Toolkit](#) today!