

### 9-3-25 Weekly Clinical Update

You may know this information already, but there are a lot of questions and confusion about updated COVID-19 vaccinations. Per McKnight's on 8-29-25 (<https://www.mcknights.com/news/fda-approves-updated-covid-19-vaccines-for-all-seniors>). In that article, it is noted that FDA approved the updated COVID-19 vaccines on 8-27-25 for all Americans 65 years & older but significantly limiting eligibility for younger populations. Per the article, "The updated vaccines target a newer COVID strain (LP.8.1)". Vaccines will be available from Pfizer, Moderna and Novavax.

Which raises the question about regulatory requirements. Per the revisions of Appendix PP which has been implemented, **F887: COVID-19 Immunizations**, the regulation says:

**"§483.80(d)(3) COVID-19 immunizations. The LTC facility must develop and implement policies and procedures to ensure all the following:**

**(i) When COVID-19 vaccine is available to the facility, each resident and staff member is offered the COVID-19 vaccine unless the immunization is medically contraindicated or the resident or staff member has already been immunized;**

**(ii) Before offering COVID-19 vaccine, all staff members are provided with education regarding the benefits and risks and potential side effects associated with the vaccine;**

**(iii) Before offering COVID-19 vaccine, each resident or the resident representative receives education regarding the benefits and risks and potential side effects associated with the COVID-19 vaccine;**

**(iv) In situations where COVID-19 vaccination requires multiple doses, the resident, resident representative, or staff member is provided with current information regarding those additional doses, including any changes in the benefits or risks and potential side effects, associated with the COVID-19 vaccine, before requesting consent for administration of any additional doses.**

**(v) The resident or resident representative, has the opportunity to accept or refuse a COVID-19 vaccine, and change their decision; and**

**(vi) The resident's medical record includes documentation that indicates, at a minimum, the following:**

**(A) That the resident or resident representative was provided education regarding the benefits and potential risks associated with COVID-19 vaccine; and**

**(B) Each dose of COVID-19 vaccine administered to the resident, or**

**(C) If the resident did not receive the COVID-19 vaccine due to medical contraindications or refusal.**

**(vii) The facility maintains documentation related to staff COVID-19 vaccination that includes at a minimum, the following:**

**(A) That staff were provided education regarding the benefits and potential risks associated with COVID-19 vaccine;**

**(B) Staff were offered the COVID-19 vaccine or information on obtaining COVID-19 vaccine; and**

**(C) The COVID-19 vaccine status of staff and related information as indicated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN)."**

Facility staff should be on the look-out for the newest VIS from CDC to provide information to both residents and staff. The most recent available on this date on the CDC website is dated 1-31-25 and addresses the 2-24-2025 vaccine, not the most recently approved vaccine.

As in the past, the COVID vaccine can be administered at the same time as other annual vaccines, but not contained within the same injection.