

January 24, 2021

Governor Tom Wolf
508 Main Capitol Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Re: State Vaccination of Long-Term Care Residents in Skilled Nursing Facilities, Assisted Living Facilities, and Congregate Care Environments

Governor Wolf,

On December 21, 2020 the federal government launched The Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care (The Partnership). State jurisdictions had the option to utilize The Partnership or handle vaccine distribution through independent state allocation. Every state aside from West Virginia originally chose to utilize The Partnership, but many states have expressed interest in deploying their state network to successfully vaccinate their LTC population.

In order to help facilitate this transfer process for states, the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists (ASCP) has partnered with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other state and national aging groups to help support jurisdiction transfers and engage existing pharmacy networks to quickly and efficiently expand LTC vaccinations and ensure that our most vulnerable citizens are vaccinated with the limited mRNA vaccines intended for their use.

By requesting a jurisdiction transfer, states will be able to deploy all existing LTC pharmacies that have signed up with the CDC, which is critical to ensuring vaccine access in rural, isolated, and smaller skilled nursing facilities (SNF), assisted living facilities (ALF), personal care (PC), and congregate care environments. Currently, the large national pharmacy chains (CVS, Walgreens) have vaccinated a critical mass of larger SNFs, but there are still thousands of federally governed SNFs and close to 37,800 state run ALFs that require inoculations. By states engaging in the LTC jurisdiction transfer process, states will be able to utilize the pharmacists already in these care environments to vaccinate residents and patients.

We highly recommend that the state of Pennsylvania perform a jurisdiction transfer to help finish the LTC vaccination process. Attached to this letter you can find an explantion of the program and timeline. Please have your public health department submit a request directly to CDC and notify state SNF/ALF administrators. Transfers are completed on a weekly basis.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to fighting COVID-19 in America's nursing homes. Our LTC pharmacists stand ready to serve where needed and our organization is happy to answer any and all questions.



Chad Worz, Pharm.D., BCGP
Chief Executive Officer
American Society of Consultant Pharmacists



Brian B. Kimmel, DO, CMD

President

The Pennsylvania Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine

The Pennsylvania Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine is an organization of long-term care professionals committed to the continuous improvement of quality care for Pennsylvanians across the long-term care continuum.



Zachary Shamborg

President and CEO

Pennsylvania Health Care Association

PHCA advocates for long-term care providers, including nursing homes, personal care homes and assisted living communities, their frontline workers and the residents they serve.



Margie Zelenak

Executive Director

Pennsylvania Assisted Living Association

PALA provides a unified voice of Personal Care and Assisted Living communities and the residents they serve by advocating for informed choice, quality care and accessibility for seniors residing in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.



Adam Marles, Esq.

President and CEO

LeadingAge PA

LeadingAge PA is a statewide association representing 370 high-quality providers of long-term care services and supports for older adults, including nursing homes, assisted living residences and personal care homes, continuing care retirement communities, senior affordable housing, LIFE programs, and home- and community-based services.

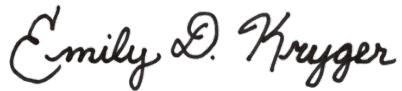


Victoria E. Elliott, R.Ph, MBA, CAE

CEO

Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association

The Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association is a professional membership organization of more than 2,300 pharmacists and pharmacy students across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, representing almost all facets of pharmacy practice. As the leading voice of pharmacy in Pennsylvania, it promotes the profession through advocacy, education, and communication to enhance patient care and public health.



Emily D. Kryger, PharmD, BCGP, FASCP

President

Pennsylvania American Society of Consultant Pharmacists

ASCP is a membership association that represents pharmacists, health care professionals, and students serving the unique medication needs of older adults.



Attachment:

CDC Pharmacy Partnership Programs for COVID-19 Vaccination

	Federal LTCF Program	Leveraging Pharmacy Partners in Phase 1 (Jurisdiction Transfers)	Federal Retail Pharmacy Program Phase 2
How is it activated?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Jurisdiction requests activation, two-week notice	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Jurisdiction requests transfer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">OWS activates based on vaccine supply
When can it be activated?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Jurisdiction chooses first clinic date	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Jurisdiction chooses timing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">OWS chooses time, incremental roll out nationwide
How many doses are required to activate?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">25% of doses needed for LTC population before first clinic; remainder within next three weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">N/A - jurisdiction chooses amount to transfer to the pharmacy partner	<ul style="list-style-type: none">OWS chooses threshold to activate broader site footprint
Where does allocation come from?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Transferred from jurisdiction allocations to pharmacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Transferred from jurisdiction allocation to pharmacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Direct Federal allocation to pharmacy partner
Who enrolls providers?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">USG; no effort required on behalf of the jurisdiction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">USG; no effort required on behalf of the jurisdiction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">USG; no effort required on behalf of the jurisdiction
Which populations will be vaccinated?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">LTCF residents and staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Jurisdiction chooses; likely essential workers or individuals ≥ 75 years, could include HCP not previously vaccinated	<ul style="list-style-type: none">General /broader population (general, elderly)
Which sites will vaccinate?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Pharmacy partners hold clinics at all enrolled and eligible LTCFs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Select retail pharmacy sites chosen by jurisdiction in coordination with partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Initial rollout: coordinated by CDC with jurisdiction inputLater expansion: pharmacies choose expansion of sites based on uptake; CDC provides oversight
Who will carry out vaccination?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Pharmacy partner staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Pharmacy partner staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Pharmacy partner staff

