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Subject: Assisted Living Facility COVID-19 Vaccine Survey
To: DSS_Licensing <dss_licensing@listserv.cov.virginia.gov>

The attached memorandum is being sent to assisted living facilities (ALFs) from the Virginia Department of Social Services Email Distribution Service.

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COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

DATE: September 17, 2020
TO: Licensed Assisted Living Facilities
FROM: Tara Ragland, Director, Division of Licensing Programs
RE: Assisted Living Facility COVID-19 Vaccine Survey

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has notified Virginia that a COVID-19 vaccine could be available for distribution as early as this fall. The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) is heavily engaged in COVID-19 vaccination planning efforts, including developing priorities for distributing the vaccine, with healthcare as a top priority. We are pushing very strongly to ensure that front line healthcare workers and vulnerable populations, such as residents in your communities, are among the first to obtain the vaccine.

VDH has developed a preliminary planning survey to identify the number of high-risk workers, number of residents in facilities, and ability to securely store the vaccine. This survey is voluntary, but we would greatly appreciate your participation since it will help Virginia prepare for the vaccine.

You can find the survey here:

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/59caf507f8da458cb89fc37b0b9c6b7e>

Please complete the survey by **Friday, September 25.**

There are **many** unknowns regarding when Virginia may receive a vaccine, how many Virginia will receive, and how the vaccine will be prioritized and distributed. This survey is the first step in a long process to help us understand how many high-risk workers and residents need to be prioritized when the time comes.

Below are additional resources related to the COVID-19 vaccines:

- We are currently aware of 2 potential vaccines with potentially up to 5-7 vaccines becoming available at a later date. The CDC has posted information about the vaccines from its Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), including:

1. *ACIP Presentation Slides: August 2020 Meeting* at <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/acip/meetings/slides-2020-08.html>.

2. *COVID-19 Vaccine Prioritization: Work Group Considerations* (focusing on vaccines A and B) at <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/acip/meetings/downloads/slides-2020-08/COVID-08-Dooling.pdf>
- The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine’s Committee on Equitable Allocation of Vaccine for the Novel Coronavirus drafted a preliminary framework for distributing the vaccine. See attached *Discussion Draft of the Preliminary Framework for Equitable Allocation of COVID-19 Vaccine* or go to <https://www.nap.edu/catalog/25914/discussion-draft-of-the-preliminary-framework-for-equitable-allocation-of-covid-19-vaccine>

As always, thank you for all you do for your staff and residents, and thank you in advance for participating in the survey.



Virginia Assisted Living Facility COVID-19 Vaccination Survey

The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) has been notified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that a COVID-19 vaccine could be distributed to states in the fall of 2020. It is anticipated that the distribution of the vaccine will be in phases and priority groups, such as healthcare workers, will be in phase 1. While there are many unknowns at this time, the Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association (VHHA) is working closely with VDH to help determine the capabilities of our healthcare system. This survey will aid in the planning and distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Demographic Questions

1. Facility Name
2. Facility Type
3. Street Address
4. City
5. Zip Code
6. Name (First & Last)
7. Title
8. Email Address
9. Phone Number

Phase 1a Workforce

It is anticipated that a Phase 1 distribution of a COVID-19 vaccine will include high-risk workers in healthcare facilities. High-risk workers include front line health care workers (in hospitals, nursing homes, or providing home care) who either: (1) work in situations where risk of SARS-CoV-2 transmission is high, or (2) are at an elevated risk of transmitting the infection to patients at high risk of mortality and severe morbidity. These groups include not only clinicians (e.g., nurses, physicians, respiratory technicians, pharmacists, pharmacy Technicians, dentists, and hygienists) but also other workers in health care settings who meet the Phase 1a risk criteria (e.g., nursing assistants, dietary and environmental services staff).

Situations with high risk of transmission include caring for COVID-19 patients, cleaning areas where COVID-19 patients are admitted and treated, and performing procedures with high risk of aerosolization such as endotracheal intubation, bronchoscopy, suctioning, turning the patient to the prone position, disconnecting the patient from the ventilator, invasive dental procedures and exams, invasive specimen collection, and cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

10. Does your facility plan to mandate COVID-19 Vaccination for employees? (Y/N/Unsure)
11. How many total employees (clinical, nonclinical, office, and volunteers) are employed at your facility?

12. Based on the definition of high-risk workers above, how many high-risk workers are employed at your facility?
13. Do you plan to administer vaccine to your employees, contract vaccine administration out, request assistance to vaccinate employees and/or residents, or have employees seek vaccination on their own?

Phase 1b At Risk Populations

It is anticipated that individuals with comorbidities and individuals residing in congregate care settings may be included in a Phase 1 distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine. These questions are to help determine quantity and capability of facilities housing individuals that reside in these settings.

14. How many residents reside at your facility?
15. How many residents are between the age 60-65?
16. How many residents are between the ages of 65-75?
17. How many residents are between the ages of 75-85?
18. How many residents are over the age of 85?
19. Does your facility have a plan in place to vaccinate residents?
20. Does your facility anticipate mandating a vaccine for residents?
21. Does your facility have a plan in place to discuss vaccination efforts with family of residents?
22. Does your facility have a plan in place to care for residents who refuse a COVID-19 vaccine?

Vaccine Storage

At this time, it is unknown which vaccine will be distributed nor what quantity will be received. Currently, the CDC is planning for Vaccine candidate A and Vaccine candidate B.

Vaccine Candidate A will be shipped at -70 - -80 degrees Celsius on dry ice and must be used within 10 days. This vaccine can be stored at 2-8 degrees Celsius for 24 hours and has a 6-hour shelf life at room temperature.

Vaccine Candidate B must be stored at -20 degrees Celsius and may be stored for months. This vaccine can be stored at 2-8 degrees Celsius for 7 days and has a 6-hour shelf life at room temperature.

**It is not expected that organizations are to purchase ultra-low freezers.

23. Does your facility have a secure location to store a COVID-19 vaccine? (i.e. locked area approved by Board of Pharmacy to store vaccines and medications)
24. Based on the definition of Vaccine candidate A above, does your facility currently have the capacity to store a COVID-19 vaccine at -70 - -80°C on dry ice or in ultra-low freezers?? *A container will be provided for the dry ice, but dry ice may need to be supplemented.*

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25. Will your facility create the capacity to store a COVID-19 vaccine at -70 - -80°C on dry ice or in ultra-low freezers? ? (It is not expected to purchase ultra-low freezers, but will you have space to store ultra-low shipment containers of vaccine?)
26. Based on the definition of Vaccine candidate B above, does your facility currently have the capacity to store a COVID-19 vaccine at -20°C?
27. Will your facility create the capacity to store a COVID-19 vaccine at -20°C?
28. If not, does your facility, partner with a pharmacy or other licensed healthcare facility?

Community and Provider Vaccination Efforts

The following questions are an effort to determine a facility's ability to vaccinate employees and residents. At this time, the vaccine is expected to be free and the Federal government will provide necessary ancillary supplies along with the vaccine; however, it is unknown what additional resources will be available to help administer the vaccine in these efforts.

29. Will your facility need assistance with vaccinating staff and residents?
30. Does your facility have the resources (staff, supplies, etc.) to vaccinate employees and residents?
31. Does your facility have an account in the Virginia Immunization Information System (VIIS)?

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