



Department of Health

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

MARY T. BASSETT, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner

KRISTIN M. PROUD
Acting Executive Deputy Commissioner

Date: September 16, 2022
DAL: NH 22-18; DACF 22-37
Subject: COVID-19 Vaccination and Booster Doses

Dear Administrator:

The purpose of this letter is to remind long-term care facilities (including adult care facility (ACF) and nursing home) providers that the New York State Department of Health (“Department”) continues to recognize COVID-19 as an ongoing threat to the health of long-term care facility residents and staff. As such, vigilance and ongoing adherence to recommended infection prevention and control measures (e.g., screening, use of source control, adherence to standard and all applicable transmission-based precautions, environmental cleaning, etc.) are critical to ensuring the highest levels of health and safety.

Providers are reminded that the requirement for personnel in covered entities to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 remains in effect pursuant to [10 NYCRR § 2.61](#). This regulation applies to all ACFs regulated by the Department under the Social Services Law, healthcare facilities licensed under Article 28 of the Public Health Law, agencies and programs licensed under Article 36 of the Public Health Law and hospices licensed under Article 40 of the Public Health Law.

In addition, the Department continues to align with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in recommending that **all individuals remain [up to date](#) with recommended COVID-19 vaccines, including all CDC recommended boosters, when eligible**. COVID-19 vaccines are effective at protecting people from severe outcomes and staying up to date provides the best protection. In addition, consistent with regulations, long term care facilities including ACFs and nursing homes should continually review the vaccination status of all residents and staff and offer and arrange for booster doses for eligible, consenting residents and staff. As boosters continue to be one of the best defenses against severe outcomes, the Department strongly encourages ongoing outreach to residents and staff.

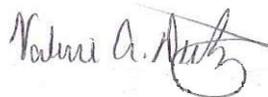
The CDC recently revised the definition for up to date with all recommended COVID-19 vaccine doses to include receipt of the updated (bivalent) booster dose when an individual is eligible. The updated (bivalent) booster vaccine should be available and accessible to facilities within the next few weeks. For the purpose of implementing certain infection prevention and control requirements that are determined by vaccination status (e.g., quarantine of new admissions and close contacts and routine COVID-19 testing of staff) and to provide facilities with a reasonable time for administration of updated (bivalent) booster doses, facilities may continue to treat staff and residents who are eligible and who would be up to date upon receipt of an updated (bivalent) booster dose as still up to date through 10/15/2022. **Facilities are expected exercise diligence, act proactively and document efforts to ensure eligible and consenting staff and residents remain up to date with CDC recommended COVID-19 vaccine doses, including all CDC recommended updated (bivalent) booster doses.**

Further, the Department reminds long term care facilities that we are entering influenza season, and the requirement for annual influenza vaccination remains in effect. It may be useful to coordinate the COVID-19 booster and influenza vaccination clinics for efficiency. According to CDC, influenza and COVID-19 vaccines can be administered at the same time (<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/season/faq-flu-season-2021-2022.htm>).

Finally, please be reminded that ACFs should continue to work with their Local Health Departments in the event of a communicable disease outbreak, including for COVID-19 and influenza.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to keep residents protected and safe. Questions regarding this correspondence may be referred to covidadultcareinfo@health.ny.gov or covidnursinghomeinfo@health.ny.gov.

Sincerely,



Valerie Deetz
Deputy Director
Office of Aging and Long-Term Care

References:

NYSDOH [Health Advisory: Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Pandemic](#)

NYSDOH [Health Advisory: Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Adult Care Facilities During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

CDC [Clinical Outreach and Communication Activity \(COCA\): 2022-2023 Influenza Vaccination Recommendations and Guidance on Coadministration with COVID-19 Vaccines](#)

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