

Vaccine Timeline Guide

As the Respiratory Illness season approaches, it is very important to keep those who are in this vulnerable population we serve, protected. The older population tend to have weakened immune systems or are immunocompromised, placing them at a higher risk for certain illnesses. Those who are 65 years old and older should stay up to date on the respiratory vaccines such as Covid-19 and Influenza ([CDC](#)) which is the best way to protect against severe illness and death for your residents ([CDPH](#)).

For adults 65 and older, the CDC recommends a 2nd dose of 2023-2024 COVID vaccine at least 4 months after the last dose. This Spring/Summer dose will not prevent receiving an updated dose next Fall. In past years, the first dose of the updated Fall vaccine can be given 2 months after the Spring/Summer dose.

- For example, if John gets his second dose of the *current* vaccine on July 15, 2024, he should be able to get his first dose of the *new* vaccine any time after September 15th, 2024. The 2024-2025 COVID-19 vaccine will likely be available in mid- to late September.

The beginning of the fall/winter respiratory virus season is usually defined as November 1 through April 30. The timeline for seeing increased levels of COVID, flu, RSV, etc. activity varies every year. To give individuals time to develop antibodies from their vaccines prior to exposure to these viruses, it's recommended to complete your vaccination clinics by November 1st, if possible.

Studies have shown that co-administration of the Covid-19 and Influenza vaccinations is safe if the recipients are eligible. Receiving both vaccines at the same time is convenient and can save trips to getting vaccinated which is a potential barrier. ([CDC](#))

As the new updated respiratory vaccines are released, Long Term Care Facilities should provide easy access, education, and outreach to residents, their families, and the staff on the value and importance of being up to date with vaccinations. Encourage all workers to be up to date with vaccinations. See [CDC Stay Up to Date with COVID-19 Vaccines](#) or [AHCA/NCAL #GetVaccinated](#).

Having a plan in place will ensure prompt vaccination of staff and residents; it is the best way to protect them. This will avoid potential gaps in gaining immunity. In the next section, there is a step-by-step process that you can follow to help your facility create its own vaccination plan.

STEP 1: Screen all residents

Timeline: June/July

- Screen all residents for Vaccine eligibility
 - Residents may not be eligible for COVID-19 vaccination if they received a vaccine 2 months prior to vaccination clinic
 - COVID Status should be evaluated directly preceding clinic for those currently or recently positive for COVID-19. One should wait to be vaccinated until they complete Isolation and symptoms have improved
[CDC COVID-19 Vaccine FAQs](#)
 - Screen all residents for Pneumococcal Vaccination. See [Pneumococcal Vaccination: What Everyone Should Know](#)

Vaccine	19-26 years	27-49 years	50-64 years	65+ years
COVID-19	1 dose of updated vaccine: 1-2 times yearly			
Influenza inactivated (IIV4) OR Influenza recombinant (RIV4)	1 dose annually			
OR Influenza live attenuated (LAIV4)	1 dose annually			
Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)	Seasonal administration during pregnancy			or once if 60+

STEP 2: Educate to increase vaccine rates:

Timeline: June - August

If consent rates are historically low, it could be caused by a lack of information. A lack of information or misinformation can be the cause as to why residents are hesitant or refusing the vaccine. It is important to review the current information and have it available to allow the residents or responsible parties to make an informed decision.

Set up informational meeting/presentation to provide residents/responsible parties/staff current information and improve their knowledge on vaccine recommendations.

[CDC 12 Strategies](#)

[CDC Vaccine Confidence](#)

[CDPH Get the facts.](#)

Take this [free 4 part course](#) to help you build trust with staff and residents.

[6 tips for Staying Healthy this Virus Season](#)

[#GetVaccinated from AHCA/NCAL](#)

[Link for other informational posters](#)

STEP 3: Gathering Consent

Timeline: July/August

Use a consent form for multiple vaccines (e.g., sample here: [Vaccine Consent Form for Multiple Vaccines](#)) to get permission from residents or their legal representatives for all needed vaccines at once. This will help you know exactly how many doses to order when setting up a clinic.

Vendors may require a specific consent form; contact vendor for this information.

Collect insurance information to share with the Vaccine Provider (e.g. face sheets, picture of Insurance card)

STEP 4: Scheduling a Vaccine Clinic

Timeline: August, for a late September or October clinic so residents and staff are protected prior to respiratory virus season (typically November-April)

If your facility has a pharmacy that you regularly work with, then reach out to them first to:

- Acquire the updated vaccines for administration by your staff. ***Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs) only***

OR

- Check to see if they can provide a vaccine clinic for your facility.

Timeline: NOW! HSAG is currently offering vaccine education and clinics for **Skilled Nursing Facilities** through October 2024

- Fill out their [online form](#) and wait 72 hours for a response.
- Must have a minimum need of 20 **total** vaccines, including Influenza, RSV, pneumococcal, and COVID-19: for both the staff members and residents.
- If your facility is unable to meet the minimum of 20 vaccines, please consider requesting onsite or virtual vaccine education.

SNFs and RCFEs

If unable to obtain vaccinations through your pharmacy, then use the links below as additional resources to obtain vaccines.

- [County Contracted Provider \(BayPLS, Hallers Pharmacy or La Familia\)](#) (through Fall 2024)
- Local retailers such as [CVS](#), [Rite Aid](#), [Walgreens](#), [Albertsons](#), [Safeway](#) or other pharmacies
- Healthcare Providers
- [MyTurn](#)
- [Vaccine Finder](#)

For CDSS Licensed Care Facilities: If unable to arrange COVID-19 and/or Influenza vaccination from any of the above resources, please submit a [Long Term Care Facility Vaccine Clinic Request](#)

For SNFs: If unable to arrange COVID-19 vaccination from any of the above resources, please contact the CDPH call center for support:

- Email: covidcallcenter@cdph.ca.gov
- Phone: (833) 502-1245 Monday – Friday from 8 AM–6 PM

STEP 5: What is the plan for new admissions or those who miss the clinic deadline?

Timeline: Year round

- **SNFs** Consider having the vaccination in house.
 - On-site Vaccination Options. For greater convenience of facility staff and persons in care, facilities are encouraged to consider on-site vaccination options including pharmacy partners and local health departments. Pharmacy partners include long-term care pharmacies (see Appendix B of [the Long-Term Care Facility COVID-19 Vaccine Toolkit](#) which includes pharmacy information by county).
 - Licensees may contact their nearest participating pharmacy (e.g., Safeway, CVS) to learn which services, such as an on-site vaccination clinic, they are able to offer. The CDPH Long Term Care Facility (LTCF) COVID-19 Vaccine Toolkit includes a flow chart to help facilities identify resources that fit their specific needs.

- NOTE: If your facility will be administering the vaccinations, ensure your facility has proper storage for the vaccines. Check with pharmacies or providers for more information on vaccine storage requirements.

- **CDSS Licensed Care Facilities and SNFs:** Plan for on-going vaccination needs
 - For new admissions or staff or those who miss the vaccine clinic the first time around
 - When admission occurs after a seasonal vaccine clinic.
 - Request the responsible party to get their loved ones vaccinated before admission into a CDSS Licensed Care Facility (e.g., RCFE, Assisted Living, Memory Care).
 - Consider making this a part of the admission process or admission paperwork.
 - A secondary vaccine clinic is an option if you have enough staff/residents with the need for vaccines.