

Long Term Care Vaccine Updates

May 20, 2021

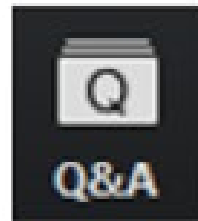


NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**



Logistics for today's COVID-19 Forum

Question during the live webinar



Technical assistance

technicalassistanceCOVID19@gmail.com

Audio connection to webinar

Dial (646) 558 8656 or (301) 715 8592

Webinar ID: **997 9499 7344**

HOUSEKEEPING ITEMS

- Session is being recorded
- Slides, links and recording will be sent to participants once the recording has been processed
- We have a few prompt questions throughout the session – please use the chat/Q&A feature to share information for these sessions
- Participants will stay muted – please use Q&A to type questions, we will answer if we can during the session but will most likely follow up with a Q&A document

AGENDA

1. Overall Vaccine Update
 - Vaccination rates in LTC
2. CMS Interim Final Rule - COVID-19 Vaccine Immunization Requirements for Residents and Staff
3. Increasing LTC Staff Vaccination Rates
 - Current progress
 - Available resources
 - Challenges and opportunities
 - Lessons from the field
4. Miscellaneous Vaccine Updates
 - Availability and allocations
 - North Carolina vaccine utilization guidance
 - Verifying vaccine status

Current Vaccine Progress

CURRENT VACCINE PROGRESS IN NORTH CAROLINA

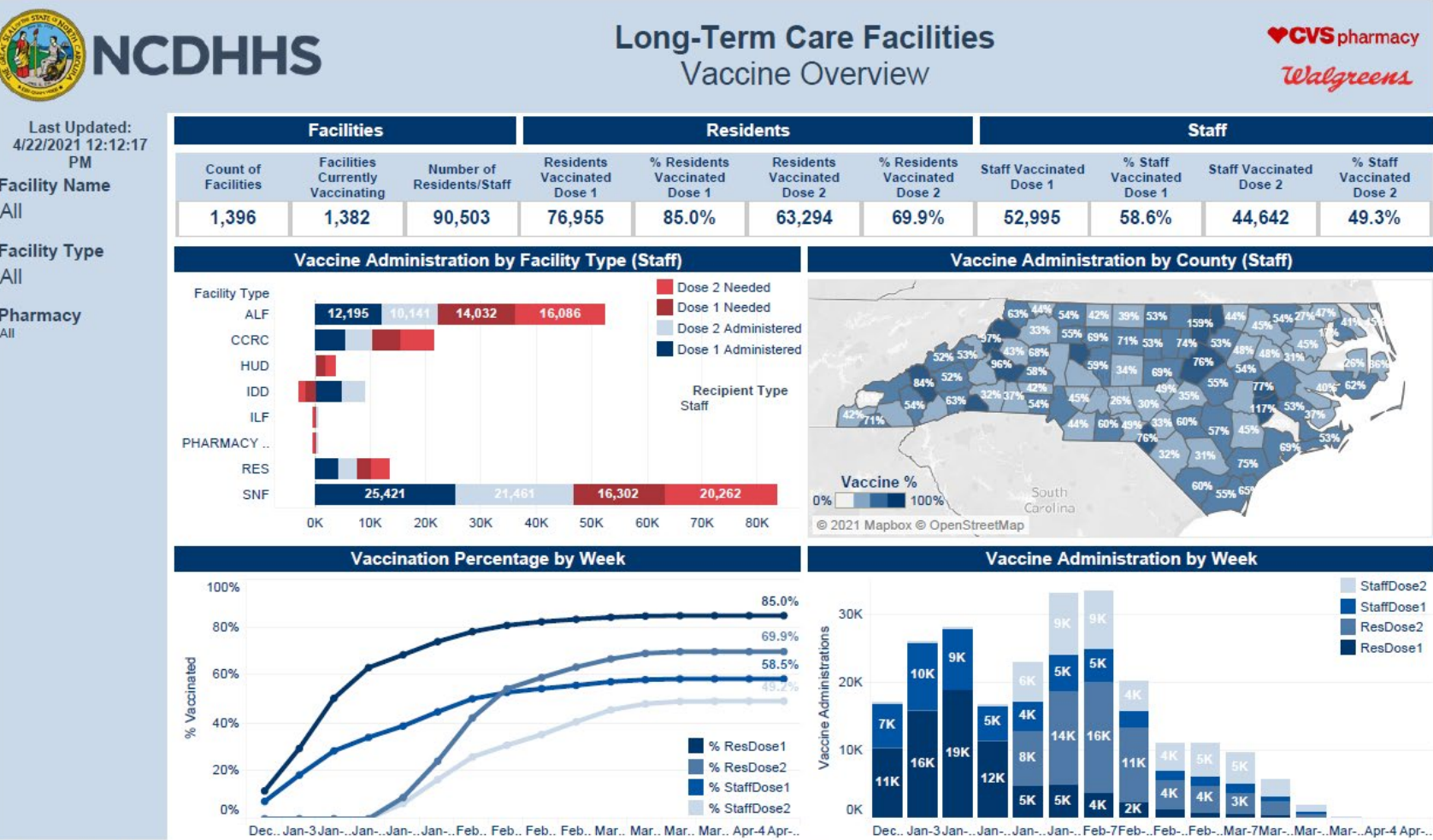
Data: December 14, 2020 – May 17, 2021 at 11:59 p.m.
Vaccinations Data will be updated Monday - Friday

Summary Data

Demographics Data

| First of 2 Doses Administered | Second of 2 Doses Administered | Single Shot Doses Administered | Total Doses Administered |
|---|--|--|--------------------------|
| 4,024,114 | 3,578,052 | 283,157 | 7,885,323 |
| Percent of Total Population Vaccinated with at Least One Dose | Percent of Population 18+ Years of Age Vaccinated with at Least One Dose | Percent of Population 65+ Years of Age Vaccinated with at Least One Dose | |
| <div><div></div>41.1%</div> | <div><div></div>51.5%</div> | <div><div></div>79.1%</div> | |
| Percent of Total Population Fully Vaccinated | Percent of Population 18+ Years of Age Fully Vaccinated | Percent of Population 65+ Years of Age Fully Vaccinated | |
| <div><div></div>36.8%</div> | <div><div></div>46.6%</div> | <div><div></div>75.8%</div> | |

LTC VACCINE COVERAGE



1) Data includes CVS & Walgreens vaccination program only. 2) % of Residents/Staff is an estimate based on Number of Beds reported—likely an underestimate of the true % of LTC residents & staff vaccinated. 3) Staff is estimated 1:1 to residents.

Other Pharmacy Allocations

Over 50,000 total vaccines allocated to LTC pharmacies in NC through state and federal programs

CMS Interim Final Rule - COVID-19 Vaccine Immunization Requirements for Residents and Staff

COVID-19 VACCINE IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS FOR RESIDENTS AND STAFF

- Interim final rule published on **May 11, 2021**
- Major requirements within the rule:
 - Educating residents, resident representatives and staff regarding benefits and potential side effects associated with COVID-19 vaccines
 - Offering COVID-19 vaccines
 - Reporting COVID-19 vaccine and therapeutics treatment information to the CDC through NHSN
- Information reporting to NHSN will be posted on the CMS COVID-19 Nursing Home Data Website
- Facilities must begin including vaccination and therapeutic data reporting in facility NHSN submissions by 11:59 p.m. **Sunday, June 13, 2021.**
- To be compliant with the new reporting requirements, facilities must submit the data through the NHSN reporting system at least once every seven days.
- Facilities may choose to submit multiple times per week.
- Request for public comment within rule: potential applications for these and other requirements for other congregate settings in which CMS has regulatory authority
- Link to Full Text: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-21-19-nh.pdf>

ADDITIONAL CMS DETAILS

- Education on Vaccine
 - CMS is not prescribing any specific educational materials for use
- Offering Vaccine
 - Maintaining records that staff and residents that have been offered vaccine will be helpful
 - “Hold facilities accountable for what’s in their control”
- Reporting
 - Reporting requirement applies to nursing homes, not ICFs
 - All data that will be reported will be at the aggregate level, no personal information reported
- Link to Full Text: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-21-19-nh.pdf>

Staff Vaccination Rates

PROGRESS AND PRIORITIES

- Federal Pharmacy Program Data:
 - 52,995 Staff vaccinated Dose One (58.6% if based on 1:1 staff to bed ratio)
 - 44,642 Staff vaccinated Dose Two (49.3% if based on 1:1 staff to bed ratio)
- Current Priorities
 - Identifying vaccination need (second dose gaps and overall vaccination)
 - Increasing vaccine confidence
 - Applying NC's vaccine principles (Fast, Fair, Easy, Everywhere) to all settings

BARRIERS AND CHALLENGES

- Themes from early vaccine rollout (January/February) →
- Current information from the field:
 - Most remaining hesitancy in LTC staff members:
 - Resembles overall societal hesitancies,
 - Has with mixed causes
 - Needs for individualized outreach to address

| # | Themes Based on Check-In Calls for Low Up-Take LTCFs |
|------|---|
| = 1 | Vaccine development was too quick and therefore is unsafe (<i>previous #1</i>) |
| = 2 | Mistrust due to lack of information (<i>previous #2</i>) |
| = 3 | Waiting to see how others did with the first dose of the vaccine (<i>previous #3</i>) |
| = 4 | Vaccine myths are leading to hesitancy (<i>previous #4</i>) |
| ▲ 5 | Concerns about unknown long-term effects of the vaccine (<i>previous #5</i>) |
| ▼ 6 | Historical racial trauma (<i>previous #5</i>) |
| ▲ 7 | The vaccine will impact fertility and/or sexual performance (<i>previous #9</i>) |
| ▼ 8 | Vaccine has a chip in it that the government will use to track us (<i>previous #7</i>) |
| ▲ 8 | Government mistrust (<i>previous #9</i>) |
| ▼ 8 | Fear of getting vaccine when pre-existing conditions are present (<i>previous #7</i>) |
| = 11 | LTCF has not yet been scheduled by CVS or Walgreens to receive the vaccine, driving frustration (<i>previous #11</i>) |
| = 11 | Worried about shift availability if too many staff are ill (<i>previous #11</i>) |
| = 11 | Staff are afraid the vaccine won't last long or that effectiveness is not guaranteed (<i>previous #11</i>) |

FEEDBACK OPPORTUNITY

What are the most significant challenges you are currently facing with staff vaccination rates? Please share into chat/Q&A and we will compile information

STRATEGIES TO INCREASE VACCINE CONFIDENCE

- Information from AHCA/NCAL
 1. Employ multiple strategies
 2. Set a Goal (AHCA/NCAL Goal – 75% Staff vaccination rate by June 30)
 3. Listen to staff concerns over vaccine
 4. Celebrate and support staff who receive the vaccine
 5. Develop peer level ambassadors
 6. Use communication strategies that are frequent, targeted and personal
 7. Emphasize the positive benefits from taking the vaccine

<https://getvaccinated.us/>

[Strategies to Improve Vaccination Rates](#)

[Talking Points Document](#)

SUCCESS STORIES FROM THE FIELD (NORTH CAROLINA PROVIDERS AND PARTNERS)

- Vaccine Availability
 - Predictable cadence
 - If scheduling onsite clinics, schedule with enough time to do individual staff outreach
 - Help staff find community vaccine providers if/when necessary (myspot.nc.gov)
- Staff Outreach
 - Be persistent in encouraging staff to get vaccinated
 - Use multiple communication strategies (Emails, posters, letters to staff, individual conversations, social media)
 - Find the most effective local messengers (peers, facility leadership, local providers, local leaders)
 - One facility communicated a message from a local pastor that resonated well
 - Leverage one-on-one conversations whenever possible, including with vaccine providers
- Consider the Benefits
 - Facility visitation
 - Less frequent testing
 - “Getting back to normal” in both work and personal life
- Consider Incentives

COMPREHENSIVE INCENTIVE PLANNING AT DSOHF

- Multi-faceted approach based on CDC and CMS guidance
- Recent education efforts have focused on the limits of “natural immunity” and that an EUA is not the same as “experimental”

| Accommodation | Personal Benefit | Social Benefit |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| On-site availability of vaccines | No excl. from work for travel* | Modified PPE: no masks outside |
| Use of work-time for vax | No excl. from work for exposure | Modified infection control: no social distancing outside, ability to dine inside together |
| Leave for adverse reaction | Reduced testing schedule | Competition to reach 75% & earn absence forgiveness for all employees of that facility |
| Coordination for vaccine preference | Modified source protection: no need for double mask/mask modifications or universal eye protection | |
| Personalized consultation | Absence forgiveness | |

FEEDBACK OPPORTUNITY

What has worked well with your facilities and staff? Please share into chat/Q&A and we will compile information

Miscellaneous Vaccine Updates

VACCINE AVAILABILITY AND ALLOCATIONS

- All three vaccines are readily available across North Carolina
- Allocations and Ordering Processes
 - “A Dose is a Dose” – no more first/second dose allocations
 - Twice Weekly Ordering through new standing provider link
 - Provider transfers available for smaller amounts than current shipment minimums
 - Pfizer – 1170
 - Moderna – 140
 - J&J – 50
- Vaccine administration guidance
 - Relaxed throughput requirements
 - Relaxed guidance on wastage
 - Change in Pfizer storage – 30-day stability under refrigeration

ONGOING COVERAGE FOR LONG TERM CARE FACILITIES

1. Partnership with Long Term Care Pharmacies
 - NC DHHS surveying pharmacies and facilities to ensure partnership coverage
 - NC DHHS maintains a list of LTC pharmacies that can support facilities that need vaccine partners
2. Facilities can register with CVMS as providers ([Provider Enrollment Information](#))
 - Registered providers can receive direct allocations or can accept vaccine transfers from other providers (pharmacies, hospitals, health departments, primary care, etc)
 - Reduced throughput requirements and J&J refrigeration storage may make facility allocations more feasible

VERIFYING VACCINATION STATUS

- State allocation providers: PDF “proof of vaccination” available in CVMS.
 - Record can be obtained by CVMS registered providers or by recipients if email address was provided when vaccinated
- Facilities not registered as providers can contact local providers (LDH, LTC pharmacies, local pharmacies) to inquire about vaccination status for residents
 - This proof of vaccination is not currently available for vaccines through the federal retail or LTC pharmacy programs – contact pharmacies to confirm vaccination status

FINAL FEEDBACK OPPORTUNITY

What additional information, resources or support do you need related to staff and resident vaccinations? Please share via the Zoom Webinar Q&A and we will compile information.

Please send over any additional questions and we will compile a Q&A document following the webinar.