



Department of Health

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

HOWARD A. ZUCKER, M.D., J.D.
Commissioner

LISA J. PINO, M.A., J.D.
Executive Deputy Commissioner

DATE: April 4, 2021
TO: Hospitals
FROM: New York State Department of Health

Guidance for Hospitals Vaccinating Long-Term Care Patients Before Discharge to a Long-Term Care Facility

Background

All providers enrolled in the New York State COVID-19 vaccination administration program are required to report into the Vaccine Tracker on Mondays and Thursdays. The information collected is used by the State to analyze throughput to determine future vaccine allocations. All enrolled providers, including hospitals, are required to submit weekly planning requests (“pre-book”) prior to receiving a vaccine allocation.

All Article 28 general hospitals are required to offer to medically eligible consenting patients COVID-19 vaccine to such patient prior to discharging a patient to a nursing home or other long-term care facility.

Appropriate Selection of Vaccine for Long Term Care Patients

To ensure residents of long-term care facilities are vaccinated prior to discharge from a hospital, hospitals must offer vaccine to all such patients prior to discharge to a long-term care facility. The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines require a second dose, while the Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) vaccine requires only a single dose.

If available and provided that a patient consents and is determined to be clinically appropriate for such vaccine, hospitals should offer the Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) vaccine to such patients. Offering the Janssen vaccine will allow patients to receive the benefit of vaccination, enable hospitals to appropriately allocate and administer vaccine for this priority population, and eliminate the need for a second dose in the long-term care facility by offering the one dose shot for these circumstances.

Hospitals should provide clear documentation to nursing homes of the patients’ vaccination status as applicable – including, but not limited to, the specific vaccine administered, on what date, whether a second dose needs to be administered by the nursing home, and time frame for the second dose.

Please clearly communicate this requirement to all staff who are administering or distributing vaccines and to discharge planners.

For questions, please contact the New York State Department of Health, Bureau of Immunization at COVID19vaccine@health.ny.gov.