

SKILLED NURSING AND OTHER LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES

Getting Staff Vaccinated to Protect Residents and Staff

Our long-term care facilities (LTCF) and skilled nursing facilities (SNF) have experienced the hardest impacts of COVID-19. Illness, deaths, and social isolation from residents and family have been a heavy burden on staff and residents alike.

To protect themselves, their colleagues, and residents, we urge LTCF and SNF staff to get vaccinated. COVID-19 vaccines are safe, effective, and are our best defense against the virus.

Required by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Service

Getting vaccinated is not only the best way to protect residents, its also a requirement for many long-term care and skilled nursing facilities.

On Aug. 18, 2021 the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Service (CMS), announced an emergency regulation requiring staff COVID-19 vaccinations within Medicare and Medicaid participating nursing homes. Facilities with unvaccinated staff will face warnings, fines, and stop receiving reimbursements from Medicare and Medicaid.

Learn more about Pennsylvania's strategy for increasing staff vaccination rates at LTCFs and SNFs at the [PA Department of Health's website](#).

Best Practices for Encouraging Staff Vaccinations

As an employer, you can improve your staff's vaccination rates by developing a strategy for addressing concerns and making it easy to get a vaccine.

- **Identify a vaccine champion.** Designate an individual in your organization to lead the vaccination efforts for your staff. This builds accountability and gives your team a person to work with to get their questions and concerns addressed.
- **Have open, nonjudgmental communications.** Provide frequent and transparent communication about COVID-19, the vaccine, and leadership and policy decisions. Consistent communication in meetings, emails, posters, flyers, and trainings are important. Create an environment where nonjudgmental conversations can be had – whether in group or one-on-one settings.
- **Bring vaccines to your staff.** If you need help hosting an onsite clinic, [contact the PA Department of Health to get matched with a local provider](#).
- **Consider offering incentives to staff.** Many employers have found that incentives like bonuses, raffles, and paid time off have helped to increase vaccination rates.

Communications & Outreach Materials

Looking for more resources to share with your staff? Check out [Community Resources](#) for outreach materials – including our Vaccine Outreach Toolkit for Health Care Providers, posters, handouts, and more. Many materials are offered in 13+ languages and can also be ordered for free from our [online order form](#).



COVID-FS-HC-EN