The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Health and Human Services

Department of Public Health

250 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108-4619



MARYLOU SUDDERS

Secretary

MARGRET R. COOKE Commissioner

**Tel: 617-624-6000**

**www.mass.gov/dph**

CHARLES D. BAKER

Governor

KARYN E. POLITO

Lieutenant Governor

**Memorandum**

**TO:** Long-Term Care Facilities

Pharmacies that Service Long-Term Care Facilities

**FROM:** David Johnson, Director, Drug Control Program

 Elizabeth Kelley, MBA, MPH, Director, Bureau of Health Care Safety and Quality

James Lavery, Director, Bureau of Health Professions Licensure

David Sencabaugh, R.Ph., Executive Director, Board of Registration in Pharmacy

**SUBJECT:** COVID-19 and Influenza Vaccination Guidance

**DATE:** November 2, 2022

Pursuant to COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Order No. 2021-03, licensed long-term care facilities (“LTCF”) are permitted to possess, store, and administer COVID-19 vaccines without patient specific prescriptions and without a LTCF Massachusetts Controlled Substances Registration (“MCSR”). To ensure that residents and staff at LTCFs have continued access to COVID-19 vaccine moving forward and increased access to influenza vaccine, the Department of Public Health Drug Control Program (“DCP”) will automatically issue a MCSR to all LTCFs with licenses in good standing, allowing facilities to continue to procure, receive, and possess COVID-19 vaccines and to procure, receive, and possess influenza vaccine.

Additionally, DCP will automatically issue limited purpose distributor MCSRs to pharmacies that currently have contractual agreements with LTCFs so that the pharmacy may distribute COVID-19 and influenza vaccines to the LTCF without patient specific prescriptions.

Long term care facilities that receive and possess COVID-19 and influenza vaccine must:

* Comply with all state and federal rules and regulations for security and storage of COVID-19 and influenza vaccine;
* Administer the vaccine pursuant to a valid practitioner’s order;
* Enroll in and comply with all terms of the Massachusetts COVID-19 Vaccination Program (MCVP), which shall include execution of the MCVP Agreement; and
* Report all immunization information as required by law, including G.L. c. 111 § 24M and 105 CMR 222, to the Massachusetts Immunization Information System.

The MCSRs issued to LTCFs will be limited to COVID-19 and influenza vaccine. **This registration does not permit LTCFs to receive or possess any other non-patient specific controlled substances that is not part of the Emergency Kit.**

Similarly, the limited purpose distributor MCSR issued to pharmacies will be limited to distribution of COVID-19 and influenza vaccine to LTCFs. Pharmacies that service LTCFs are not authorized to distribute or dispense any other controlled substance without a patient specific prescription or that is not part of the established Emergency Kit.

The MCSRs described in this guidance will be issued without a fee or application and will be valid for one (1) year and will automatically renew. A PDF copy of the MCSR will be sent via email on Wednesday, November 2, 2022 to facility and pharmacy contacts on file with DPH.

If a LTCF does not have an email on file with DPH, they may confirm their MCSR on DPH’s website: [Registration verification for MCSR](https://www.mass.gov/service-details/registration-verification-for-mcsr)

Questions should be addressed to DCP.DPH@mass.gov.