



### Background

- In anticipation of COVID-19 booster doses being recommended by ACIP, TDH has developed a plan for booster dose delivery in consultation with stakeholders and the Federal Government.
- This plan applies to Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNF) whose residents often require the most support and are unable to independently secure vaccination.
- It is expected that staff of these SNF facilities will continue to secure booster vaccinations privately.
- It remains the responsibility of administrators of Homes for the Aged and Assisted Living Facilities to provide additional assistance with booster vaccination for residents of these facilities if it is required.
- Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IID) will continue to be supported through the Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (DIDD).

### Plan for Booster dose

To continue to support Tennessee's SNFs, the state has implemented the following plan for COVID-19 booster vaccinations in Skilled Nursing Facilities. Skilled Nursing Facilities are to continue reporting their COVID-19 vaccination needs through the [Long-term Care COVID-19 NHSN module](#).

**Step 1:** SNFs must attempt to secure vaccination visits from a private pharmacy, whether an independent or retail pharmacy. The following process is to be followed:

1. Prior to contacting a private provider, the SNF is to collect the following information:
  - a. Number of residents requiring vaccination,
  - b. Vaccine type required,
  - c. Dates and types of vaccine previously utilized.
2. SNFs are required to contact private vaccine providers in their area.
  - a. SNFs in rural areas are to contact at least 2 vaccine providers before moving to step 2,
  - b. SNFs in metro areas are to contact at least 3 pharmacies before moving to step 2.
3. Contact details for vaccine providers in your area can be found through:
  - a. The Federal vaccine location finder at <https://www.vaccines.gov/search/>,
  - b. An additional list of vaccine providers who have previously committed to delivering vaccines in LTC facilities in TN can be found at:  
[https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/health/documents/cedep/novel-coronavirus/TN\\_LTCF\\_Pharmacy\\_List.pdf](https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/health/documents/cedep/novel-coronavirus/TN_LTCF_Pharmacy_List.pdf).
4. If a private vaccine partner is not secured, proceed to step 2.

**Step 2:** If a private vaccine provider is unable to be secured, the state has additional resources that can be utilized to assist your facility. The following process is to be utilized by SNFs to access state resources:

1. For facilities in **metro counties** (Davidson, Hamilton, Knox, Madison, Shelby, and Sullivan):
  - a. Contact the metro Health Department in your location with the following information:
    - i. Facility name and contact information for the SNF,
    - ii. The steps you've taken to secure booster vaccine visits,

- iii. The contact information for the private vaccine providers contacted,
  - iv. Number of residents requiring vaccination,
  - v. Vaccine type required,
  - vi. Dates and types of vaccine previously utilized.
- b. Contact details for metros are:
- i. Davidson: [covid-19vaccinelogistics@nashville.gov](mailto:covid-19vaccinelogistics@nashville.gov),
  - ii. Hamilton: [chchdcommander@hamiltontn.gov](mailto:chchdcommander@hamiltontn.gov),
  - iii. Knox: [Larry.Hutsell@knoxcounty.org](mailto:Larry.Hutsell@knoxcounty.org) and [John.Brinkley@knoxcounty.org](mailto:John.Brinkley@knoxcounty.org),
  - iv. Madison [Lisa.E.Williams@tn.gov](mailto:Lisa.E.Williams@tn.gov),
  - v. Shelby: [hfortner@midsouthepc.org](mailto:hfortner@midsouthepc.org),
  - vi. Sullivan: [mmoody@sullivanhealth.org](mailto:mmoody@sullivanhealth.org) and [mbelcher@sullivanhealth.org](mailto:mbelcher@sullivanhealth.org).
- c. Following contact with the metro, the metro HD will arrange visits as needed in consultation with your facility.
2. For facilities in **non-metro counties** (all counties other than Davidson, Hamilton, Knox, Madison, Shelby, and Sullivan):
- a. Contact TDH COVID-19 Vaccine Planning with the following information:
    - i. Facility name, county, and contact information for the SNF,
    - ii. The steps you've taken to secure booster vaccine visits,
    - iii. The contact information for the private vaccine provider(s) contacted,
    - iv. Number of residents requiring vaccination,
    - v. Vaccine type required,
    - vi. Dates and types of vaccine previously utilized.
  - b. Contact details for TDH COVID-19 Vaccine Planning are:
    - i. Lisa Williams, RN, BSN, [Lisa.E.Williams@tn.gov](mailto:Lisa.E.Williams@tn.gov).
3. If the metro HD or TDH COVID-19 Vaccine Planning is unable to assist, it is the responsibility of the metro HD/ COVID-19 Vaccine Planning to contact [vpdip.pandemic@tn.gov](mailto:vpdip.pandemic@tn.gov) to facilitate step 3.
4. Following **unsuccessful** completion of **Step 2**, the **SNF** should through NHSN check 'yes' on the 'COVID-19 Vaccine Access (Residents and/or Staff)' question within the 'Need for Government Support or Assistance' section.

**Step 3:** If both a private provider and the metro HD/ COVID-19 Vaccine Planning are unable to assist the SNF, responsibility for ongoing efforts will be referred to the CDC by Vaccine Preventable Diseases and Immunization Program (VPDIP). To refer the SNF for CDC assistance, the following process is to occur:

- 1. The metro HD/ COVID-19 Vaccine Planning is to contact VPDIP at [vpdip.pandemic@tn.gov](mailto:vpdip.pandemic@tn.gov) providing the following information:
  - a. Facility name, county, and contact information for the SNF,
  - b. The contact information for private provider(s) contacted,
  - c. Number of residents requiring vaccination,
  - d. Vaccine type required,
  - e. Dates and types of vaccine previously utilized.
- 2. VPDIP is to refer the SNF to the CDC through the Tiberius system and is responsible to communicate the referral to the SNF. VPDIP maintains responsibility for coordination with the CDC and ensuring vaccination success.

Please direct any questions on this policy to [vpdip.pandemic@tn.gov](mailto:vpdip.pandemic@tn.gov)