

# Newsletter #86 December 17, 2020

## Licensed and Certified Facilities

Aloha,

*CTA is distributing this information which is approved by the Office of Health Care Assurance.* It is being distributed to all CMAs and CCFHs.

Aloha CMA and CCFH Operators:

The State of Hawaii is preparing to distribute thousands of doses of COVID-19 vaccines from Moderna and Pfizer for hospitals and other health care facilities, direct health care workers, and long-term care patients.

The Department of Health (DOH) and the Office of Health Care Assurance (OHCA) in collaboration with Department of Human Services Med-QUEST Division (MQD), Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HiEMA), Developmental Disabilities Division (DDD), Department of Health Disease Outbreak Control Division (DOCD), and other stakeholders are creating a plan for COVID-19 Vaccine distribution and administration to residential long term care facilities including Adult Residential Care Homes (ARCH), Community Care Foster Family Homes (CCFFH), Developmental Disabilities Domiciliary Homes (DDDh), and Developmental Disabilities Adult Foster Homes (DD adult foster homes). These types of facilities account for over eight thousand (8,000) residents in the State of Hawaii.

Over the coming weeks, OHCA will be sending out weekly information by email about the COVID-19 vaccination plan for health care workers and residents of residential long-term care facilities.

Below are responses to initial frequently asked questions (FAQs):

1. Will the vaccine be free?

Yes, there will be no charge for the COVID-19 vaccination.

2. How will vaccinations be made available for residents of small residential care homes?

The DOH is coordinating to provide a variety of options to reach residents of residential care homes. This could include mobile teams or points of dispensing sites located throughout Hawaii's communities.

3. If a resident is bed bound, can they get the vaccine?

Yes, in-home visits to vaccinate residents who have mobility challenges or are bed-bound are being developed.

4. Who will be vaccinated first?

Currently, the plan is to vaccinate residents first, and vaccinate licensees, primary care givers, substitute care givers, responsible adults and possibly family members.

5. Will residential care homes on the neighbor island get the vaccine too?

Yes, vaccination efforts for care homes on Molokai, Kauai, Big Island, and Maui islands are planned for around the same timeframe.

6. When will residents get the vaccine?

Residential Long Term Care facilities have been prioritized. Early work is starting and estimates on timelines will be forthcoming in later updates.

7. Is anyone being forced to get the vaccine?

No, receiving the vaccine is voluntary and a personal choice. Each person is advised to discuss their concerns with their physician before deciding whether to be vaccinated.

8. Will residents receive both doses?

Yes, we are planning to administer the second doses of the vaccine as well. And, we may need your help to track residents who are discharged or transferred to other licensed care facilities before their 2<sup>nd</sup> dose.

9. Since people will be vaccinated, can care homes go back to business as usual?

As COVID-19 vaccines are being distributed and vaccinations begin, facilities should continue to follow guidance on resident and caregiver screening, monitor residents for symptoms, COVID-19 testing, proper use of PPE and universal infection controls, etc., until further advised. Staff and residents may continue to be contagious or carriers of the virus following vaccination, so caution should continue.

Please stay tuned weekly for more updates and instructions.

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