



CMS Faith and Community Partnerships Update

March 16, 2021

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CMS Updates Nursing Home Guidance

On March 10 CMS released [Nursing Home Guidance with Revised Visitation Recommendations](#) with information for nursing homes to safely expand visitation options during the COVID-19 pandemic public health emergency (PHE). According to the updated guidance, facilities should allow responsible indoor visitation at all times and for all residents, regardless of vaccination status of the resident, or visitor, unless certain scenarios arise that would limit visitation. For more information, see the [Press Release](#), [Fact Sheet](#) and new [Guidance](#). Please share the [visiting nursing home infographic](#) in English and [Spanish](#).

The American Rescue Plan: Reduces Health Care Costs, Expands Access to Insurance Coverage and Addresses Health Care Disparities

On March 12, the Biden-Harris Administration announced the American Rescue Plan (ARP) will help to reduce health care costs, expand access to coverage, and ensure nearly everyone who buys their own individual or family health insurance through a

Marketplace can receive a tax credit to reduce their premiums. The ARP not only provides the resources for America to beat this pandemic, but it also expands access to health insurance coverage, lowers costs, and ensures that health care truly is a right for all Americans.

To read the HHS fact sheet, visit: <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2021/03/12/fact-sheet-american-rescue-plan-reduces-health-care-costs-expands-access-insurance-coverage.html>

To read the CMS fact sheet, visit: <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/american-rescue-plan-and-marketplace>.

New CMS Office of Minority Health COVID-19 Vaccine Resources for Vulnerable Populations

The COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately impacted minority and vulnerable populations. The COVID-19 vaccine can reduce the spread of the virus and help end the public health emergency. Community partners working with racial and ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, people with limited English proficiency, sexual and gender minorities, and rural populations are critical in helping consumers understand how and when they can receive the vaccine, vaccine safety and confidence, and the important ongoing precautions to slow the spread of COVID-19.

To assist our partners, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Office of Minority Health (CMS OMH) has developed a [COVID-19 Vaccine Resources](https://www.cms.gov/omh/covid19vaccine) website of the many Federal resources and organized them for health care professionals, partners, consumers, and for assistance in additional languages. To view the page, visit: [go.cms.gov/omhcovid19vaccine](https://www.cms.gov/omh/covid19vaccine).

We encourage you to visit the website regularly, as we will continue to update the page with new resources. You can also share this page within your networks to prepare others to get the vaccine as soon as it's available to them.

For additional COVID-19 information, visit our general COVID-19 website for Federal resources focusing on vulnerable populations: [go.cms.gov/omhcovid19](https://www.cms.gov/omh/covid19) and From Coverage to Care COVID-19: [go.cms.gov/c2ccovid19](https://www.cms.gov/c2ccovid19) webpage.

COVID-19 Vaccine Resources: What Partners Need to Know Now

As COVID-19 vaccines continue rolling out across the country, CMS is taking action to protect the health and safety of our nation's patients and providers and keeping you updated on the latest COVID-19 resources from HHS, CDC and CMS.

With information coming from many different sources, CMS has up-to-date resources and materials to help you share important and relevant information on the COVID-19 vaccine with the people that you serve. You can find these and more resources on the [COVID-19 Partner Resources](#) Page and the [HHS COVID Education Campaign page](#). We look forward to partnering with you to promote the safety of vaccines and encourage our beneficiaries to get vaccinated when they have the opportunity.

If you manage healthcare staff:

CDC and CMS have useful COVID-19 vaccine resources and ready-made materials you can use to inform your healthcare personnel. Medical centers, pharmacies, and clinicians can use or adapt these ready-made materials to build confidence about COVID-19 vaccination among your healthcare teams and other staff.

The [CDC's COVID-19 Vaccination Communication Toolkit For Medical Centers, Pharmacies, and Clinicians](#) is a resource that provides ready-made materials that can be used to educate healthcare teams and staff and to give them tools they can use to educate patients and answer their questions about the vaccines. The toolkit includes:

- [How to Build Confidence in COVID-19 Vaccines: A Short Guide for Immunization Coordinators in Medical Centers and Clinics](#). This informational guide presents six strategies for immunization coordinators to build vaccine confidence within their health system or clinics. It includes tangible actions to promote confidence, communication, and uptake of COVID-19 vaccine, which can help support confidence among providers and patients.
- [Communications and Confidence Readiness Checklist](#). Use this checklist to assess the readiness of your facility to promote COVID-19 vaccine to healthcare personnel, and eventually, to patients. Each activity in the checklist includes links to corresponding CDC resources that you can tailor to the needs of your facility and the populations you serve.
- [The COVID-19 Vaccine Confidence Conversation Starter](#). This conversation starter is a prompt for engaging healthcare providers during an in-person or virtual meeting in order to identify tailored approaches to promote vaccine confidence within a facility.
- [Vaccine with Confidence](#). Use CDC's Vaccinate with Confidence strategy to reinforce confidence in COVID-19 vaccines.
- [Answering Your Questions About the New COVID-19 Vaccines](#). This fact sheet for healthcare personnel addresses common questions about the safety and efficacy of the new vaccines.

- [V-safe After Vaccination Health Checker](#). Healthcare personnel can use this tool to receive personalized health check-ins after they receive a COVID-19 vaccine, and should encourage all COVID-19 vaccine recipients to participate. V-safe also provides second vaccine dose reminders if needed, and telephone follow up to anyone who reports medically significant adverse events.
- **Posters:** that you can download, print, and hang in health facility common areas and staff break rooms to foster conversation and make vaccination visible.
- Healthcare Workers and Employees: [Stopping the COVID-19 Pandemic is Going to Take all of Our Tools](#)
- Healthcare Workers and Employees: [Three Reasons Why You Were Given Top Priority To Be Vaccinated Against COVID-19](#)
- Healthcare Workers and Employees: [Why Get Vaccinated? To Protect Yourself, Your Coworkers, Your Patients, Your Family](#)
- Healthcare Workers and Employees: [Get Vaccinated, Get Your Smartphone, Get Started With v-safe](#)
- **Printable stickers** in [ORANGE](#) and [WHITE](#) for staff to wear once they've gotten their vaccine.
- **Slide presentations** and accompany scripts are available to help health systems, clinics, and pharmacies educate healthcare personnel, teams and immunization coordinators about COVID-19 vaccination and build vaccine confidence within their organization:
- [Building Vaccine Confidence in Health Systems and Clinics: Tips for Immunization/Vaccine Coordinators](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Basics: What Healthcare Personnel Need to Know](#)
- [Building Confidence in COVID-19 Vaccines Among your Patients: Tips for the Healthcare Team](#)
- [How CDC is Making COVID-19 Vaccine Recommendations Video](#) – COVID-19 vaccines will be an important tool to help stop this pandemic. CDC's Dr. Cohn explains how the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, an independent group of experts, develops recommendations and advises CDC on the use of vaccines in our country and the process for making recommendations on COVID-19 vaccines.

CMS maintains a [COVID-19 Provider Toolkit](#) to ensure health care providers have the necessary tools to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency. CMS recently added up to date payment [allowances for COVID-19 vaccine administration](#), including the new Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) vaccine.

The [MLN Connects® Newsletter](#) is also a great source of Medicare updates, including the latest information about vaccines as they become available.

Questions? Please email us: Partnership@cms.hhs.gov.

[HealthCare.gov Blog: What free services are included in my coverage?](#)

Marketplace plans cover a set of [preventive services](#) — like shots and screening tests — at no cost to you. What are preventive health services?

- Preventive services are routine health care procedures, like screenings, check-ups, and counseling to prevent illness, disease, and other health problems.
- Taking advantage of these free services can help detect illness early, when treatment is likely to work best, so talk to your provider about what's right for you.
- Get specific lists of preventive services for [adults](#), [women](#), and [children](#).

Where can I go for preventive care?

- Preventive services are free only when you get them from a doctor or other provider in your plan's network. (A network is the facilities, providers, and suppliers your health insurance company has contracted with to provide health care services.)
- Contact your insurance company to see which providers are "in-network."

Get more information on [preventive and wellness services](#) for the whole household.

Health and Wellness Webinars, Recordings and Resources

The [CMS Weekly Snapshot](#) provides a summary of CMS activities, including press releases, fact sheets, blogs and other communication resources. The Snapshot is produced by the CMS Office of Communications, the Partner Relations Group. The most recent edition is [February 25 – March 4, 2021](#). Past editions of the Snapshot can be found [here](#).

[CMS National Training Program](#) has recorded a number of training modules, including the [February NTP Updates & Education webinar and training materials](#) (Recorded February 11, 2021). The recording includes Medicare updates and coverage information related to the novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) public health emergency. We also

discussed partner resources, Medicare coverage for related services, testing, and the COVID-19 vaccine. To view all of our webinar recordings, visit the [NTP website](#).

The CMS National Training Program has training materials for many Medicare topics, including PowerPoint modules that can be customized for your audience. Check them out at [CMSnationaltrainingprogram.cms.gov/?q=ntp-courses](https://cmsnationaltrainingprogram.cms.gov/?q=ntp-courses).

All of the material above is cleared content and can be shared without attribution. To be added to the CMS Faith and Community Partnerships Update, please email Lisa Carr at Lisa.Carr@cms.hhs.gov.