



5/28/2021

COVID-19 Vaccination Efforts Progress to Emergency Department and Inpatient Hospital Discharge

Dear Hospital CEO, CMO, CNO, COO:

The State of Illinois is proud of the role hospitals have played in COVID-19 vaccine distribution efforts, with many conducting large vaccine clinics open to the community. With COVID-19 vaccine scarcity no longer a barrier to vaccination, **the administration is shifting its program to “meeting people where they are” and “taking every opportunity to vaccinate.”** In addition to expanding COVID-19 vaccine administration into **hospital primary care practices**, we are interested in expanding further into **emergency departments and inpatient hospital discharge as part of the workflow.**

Your hospital/hospital system is uniquely positioned to educate patients and offer vaccine. Incorporating vaccine into the patient care workflow in the hospital is a best practice for influenza vaccine, and we are calling on you to mobilize your staff to offer COVID-19 vaccine in the same way. This might be facilitated by embedding reminders to offer vaccine into decision support tools in the nursing workflow, signs/provider buttons to “Ask me about the COVID-19 vaccine,” and other creative ideas.

The administration recognizes that taking every opportunity to vaccinate may result in discarding unused doses in a vial. The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) recommends you make every effort to vaccinate eligible persons and if you need to puncture a multi-dose vial to administer to one or more patients but not enough to use the entire vial, please do so anyway. While good planning will minimize vaccine wastage, IDPH is expecting increases in wastage as the vaccination effort evolves. Your hospital will not be penalized for reporting an increase in the number of unused/wasted doses.

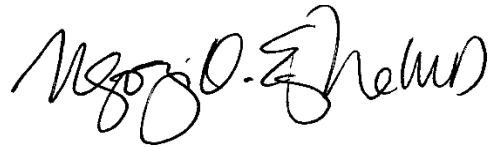
Hospitals that are enrolled in I-CARE (the state immunization registry) and have executed a COVID-19 vaccine provider agreement are now able to order vaccine directly in I-CARE. Please address any questions related to I-CARE enrollment, COVID-19 vaccine provider agreements or vaccine ordering to: dph.immunizations@illinois.gov.

Finally, the state has maintained a vaccine provider locator on the coronavirus.illinois.gov website and has included COVID-19 clinics conducted by hospitals open to the public. We obtain this information through a weekly survey integrated into IDPH’s daily hospital survey. **The state is now promoting Vaccines.gov as the primary vaccine provider search engine. Please make sure your hospital is reporting COVID-19 vaccine clinics that are open to the**

public in Vaccines.gov and advertising locally. We plan to discontinue the weekly survey question in the coming weeks.

Thank you for your essential and continuing role in ending this pandemic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ngozi O. Ezike". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ngozi" being the most prominent part.

Ngozi O. Ezike, MD
Director, Illinois Department of Public Health