

Champion Award Instructions

Introduction

The Department of Health, in cooperation with the Department of Social and Health Services, the Adult Family Home Council, the Washington Health Care Association, LeadingAge Washington, the Community Residential Services Association, and the Washington Long Term Care Advisory Committee is proud to announce a new immunization recognition program.

The *Long Term Care COVID-19 Immunization Champion Award* program recognizes long term care facilities, nursing homes and agencies in Washington who obtain COVID-19 vaccination rates of at least 70% among their employees. Participating facilities track the COVID-19 vaccine completion status for health care personnel*. Facilities will also select a barrier to health care personnel COVID vaccination during registration to work to address throughout the upcoming recognition period. At the end of the reporting cycle, the facility will confirm their COVID-19 vaccination success by providing a self-reported outcome confirmation and report how they worked to address the selected barrier. The partnership will recognize facilities that achieve vaccination rates of at least 70% and report on the work done to address selected barriers.

The *Long Term Care COVID-19 Immunization Champion Award* has three different award levels recognizing facilities and long term care supporting organizations at three levels:

- Bronze Award: 70 to 79% of their employees vaccinated against COVID-19
- Silver Award: 80 to 89% of their employees vaccinated against COVID-19
- Gold Award: 90% or more of their employees vaccinated against COVID-19

*For *Washington COVID-19 Immunization Champion Award*, health care personnel are defined as all paid employees and volunteers who are physically present in the facility/agency location during the identified cycle.

The Award Process

To qualify for the COVID LTCF Immunization Champion Award, facilities must do the following:

- Fill out the initial registration survey no later than August 27, 2021.
- Select an employee COVID-19 vaccination barrier you will work to remove.
- Collect the percentage of employees vaccinated from COVID-19 in your facility.
- To be eligible for the September-November 2021 award, return to complete the results no later than December 5, 2021.

Step 1: Initial Registration Survey

Add survey link:

The registration survey will ask for your facility's information, point of contact, if you currently track employee influenza status, and the vaccination barrier your facility will focus on.

Facilities eligible for this award include:

- Adult Family Homes
- Assisted Living Facilities

To request this document in another format, call 1-800-525-0127. Deaf or hard of hearing customers, please call 711 (Washington Relay) or email civil.rights@doh.wa.gov.

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- Continuing Care Retirement Facilities
- Multiple Function Facilities/Agencies
- Nursing Homes
- Supported Living Agencies
- Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities
- Enhanced Services Facilities

If you are unsure if your specific workplace qualifies, please email us at [identify_email address](mailto:identify_email_address)

Step 2: COVID-19 Vaccination Barriers

Facilities must choose their own COVID-19 vaccination barrier and decide how to address it. A barrier is chosen during the initial registration survey, listed in step 1. If you have difficulty coming up with ideas, the section below will provide sample barriers and how to overcome them.

Vaccine Barrier 1: Difficulty Accessing Vaccine

Addressed by:

- Providing vaccine at the workplace
- Offering vaccine on all shifts
- Work with long term care pharmacy to provide vaccinations with facility staff
- Offer vaccinations at mandatory trainings, departmental conferences, and other meetings
- Work with local health jurisdiction and/or the Department of Health to coordinate for onsite vaccinations
- Choose your own strategy

Vaccine Barrier 2: Lack of Enthusiasm about Vaccination

Addressed by establishing a culture of prevention by:

- Publicizing a “vaccine day” to offer vaccinations and vaccine education
- Encouraging employees via e-email, posters, employee newsletters, and other communication tools to get the vaccine. Use the resources listed in the resource section below for help on messaging and benefits to vaccination.
- Tracking and reporting vaccination rates to staff and supervisors
- Provide contests or incentives to get vaccinated, such as small gift cards, raffles, pizza party, etc.
- Vaccinate the medical director and all managers in front of the staff
- Choose your own strategy

Vaccine Barrier 3: High Staff Turnover

Addressed by:

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- Offer opportunities to be vaccinated prior to starting at facility
- Educating and vaccinating staff as part of new employee orientations
- Establishing a process to determine and track proof of COVID vaccination for employees
- Establish a written vaccination policy for employees
- Choose your own strategy

Vaccine Barrier 4: Lack of Culturally Appropriate Vaccination Services for Health Care Personnel

Addressed by:

- Distributing and utilizing materials from the [Long-Term Care Facility Toolkit: Preparing for COVID-19 Vaccination | CDC](#)
- Providing educational materials in multiple languages, including [Washington State Department of Health COVID-19 Vaccine website](#) and [Immunization Action Coalition of Washington](#)
- Choose your own strategy

Flu Barrier 5: Identify Your Own Barrier

- Choose your own strategy

Step 3: Employee COVID-19 Vaccination

When facilities have addressed their vaccination barrier for the time specific time period and are ready to complete the final application survey, they will need to collect the percentage of employees that are vaccinated from the flu for the 2020-2021 flu season. Facilities do not need to report any specific or identifying information about their employees.

Employees are considered a part of the count if they are physically present in the facility or agency location for at least one working day from November 1, 2020 through February 14, 2021.

Organizations who complete self-registration by the identified date, complete all required processes including tracking and confirmation of staff COVID-19 vaccination, identify and attempt to resolve the self-identified barrier and submit necessary paperwork to the Department of Health before end of the day on the identified date will be recognized with the appropriate level recognition including certificate and a *Washington COVID-19 Champion Award* quarterly window cling and be recognized as part of the honor roll for long term facility participants.

When completing the survey reporting employee vaccination information, facility policy and Governor Inslee Proclamation 21-14-COVID-19 Vaccination Requirement should be utilized to guide reported staff participation vaccination requirements.

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Final Survey

The Department of Health will email your facility contact when the final survey can be completed. Additionally, we will post the survey link on our Long Term Care Facility web page ([add link](#)) when it is ready. You must complete the steps one through three before you can complete the final survey.

Resources

[Long-Term Care Facility Toolkit: Preparing for COVID-19 Vaccination | CDC](#)

[Washington State Department of Health COVID-19 Vaccine website](#)

[Immunization Action Coalition of Washington](#)

[Governor Inslee's Proclamation Mandating Vaccinations](#)

[Department of Social and Health Services](#)

Contact Us

If you have any questions or comments about the Flu Fighter Facility Award program or other immunization/vaccination questions, please contact us at [xxxxx.gov](#)

Please note the Department of Health does not regulate or supervise long term care facilities. This program is voluntary for any organizations or facilities who wish to participate. The Flu Fighter Facility Award is made possible through the association member organizations, DSHS and DOH partnership.