



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The **Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network** is a collaborative group of individuals and associations working with and for Wisconsin's older adults to shape public policy to improve their quality of life.

Core member organizations:

Aging and Disability Professionals Association of Wisconsin (*ADPAW*)

Alzheimer's Association Wisconsin Chapter

Wisconsin Adult Day Services Association (*WADSA*)

Wisconsin Association of Area Agencies on Aging (*W4A*)

Wisconsin Association of Benefit Specialists (*WABS*)

Wisconsin Association of Nutrition Directors (*WAND*)

Wisconsin Association of Senior Centers (*WASC*)

Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging (*WIHA*)

Wisconsin Senior Corps Association (*WISCA*)

Wisconsin Tribal Aging Unit Association

Wisconsin Department of Health Services Activates Long-term Care Pharmacy Partnership Program

(MADISON, WI) In a move benefitting Wisconsin's most medically vulnerable populations, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services has officially activated the federal government's pharmacy distribution program for COVID-19 vaccine to long-term care facilities.

The Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN) applauds the state's decision to initiate the program now and move Wisconsin forward in its efforts to get the vaccine quickly and safely to long-term care facility residents and staff. The partnership between the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the national pharmacy chains Walgreens and CVS is set to begin with on-site vaccination of residents and staff of skilled nursing facilities before the end of the year.

"We appreciate the prioritization of residents and staff of skilled nursing facilities," said Robert Kellerman, Executive Director of the Greater Wisconsin Agency of Aging Resources and Chair of the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network. "Providing vaccine to these Wisconsinites will play a significant role in reducing the rate of illness and death in residents and bring long-awaited relief to the staff serving them."

When broadening of the program is possible, a COVID-19 vaccine will be made available to residents and staff of other long-term care facilities such as assisted living facilities, residential care communities, intermediate care facilities for individuals with developmental disabilities, and state veterans' homes. We look forward to the day when COVID-19 vaccinations are available to all.

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