



**Statement on HRSA Decision to Allow All Community Health Centers  
and Look-Alikes to Order COVID-19 Vaccines Directly**

On April 7, the Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) announced that all community health centers—sometimes called federally qualified health centers—and Health Center Program Look-Alikes are now eligible to participate in the COVID-19 vaccine direct allocation program. The Biden administration unveiled the program to partner on the pandemic response with health centers on Feb. 9, with two West Virginia health centers initially selected to participate.

Being eligible for the program does not mean that a health center has been allocated vaccine, as it must agree to the program's terms and conditions. The most current list of participating health centers is available [here](#). The COVID-19 vaccines provided to health centers under this program are separate from the state's weekly allocation. This program will increase the state's weekly vaccine supply, not reallocate or reduce it.

"We are thrilled that all community health centers are now able to participate in HRSA's Vaccine Program to receive shipments of COVID-19 vaccine directly," Sherri Ferrell, CEO of the West Virginia Primary Care Association (WVPCA), said. "The direct allocation of vaccine allows health centers to focus their efforts on vaccinating their patients ages 16 and older and ensure they receive other necessary health care services."

The WVPCA, which represents the state's 32 community health centers, has actively participated in the state's Joint Interagency Task Force for Vaccines (JIATF). The WVPCA serves as a liaison and strategic coordinator on the JIATF for health centers. Health center vaccination efforts have been vital for West Virginians—whether vaccinating at a health center or collaboratively with hospitals, local health departments, pharmacies, emergency management services and/or community volunteers at other sites.

***About the West Virginia Primary Care Association***

*The West Virginia Primary Care Association represents the state's 32 community health centers and one rural health clinic, which constitute the largest independent primary care network in the state. Community health centers and rural health clinics provide primary care, and many offer specialty care, such as dental, behavioral health and school-based health services, and fill prescriptions at affiliated pharmacies. Services and prescriptions are provided to health center patients regardless of their insurance status or ability to pay. Nearly 480,000 West Virginians receive health care services from a health center—more than one out of every four citizens.*

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