

MEDIA CONTACT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Community Pharmacy administering COVID-19 vaccine

GRETNA, NEB. – Community Pharmacy was selected as part of the federal government’s Operation Warp Speed to distribute COVID-19 vaccines to long-term care facilities in Nebraska and Iowa. Community Pharmacy was asked by the CDC to participate as a COVID-19 vaccinations network administrator.

This partnership will allow residents and staff of over 130 long-term care facilities in Nebraska and Iowa to safely and efficiently receive the vaccinations as part of the first round “1a” vaccine distribution, which will begin on Monday, December 28th in both Nebraska and Iowa. Distribution and administration of the vaccines includes extensive operational, clinical, compliance, and documentation needs. Community Pharmacy’s history of serving as a long-term care pharmacy provider, including running annual influenza vaccination clinics, places them in a unique position to fulfill the urgent need to protect long-term care residents and their caregivers. Community Pharmacy is also partnering with County Health Departments to help administer vaccinations as needed.

Internally at Community Pharmacy, this effort, which involves a large portion of the pharmacy’s 200 plus employees, has been dubbed “Project Hug.”

“We want to do our part to help end this nightmare for these residents. We want residents to be able to hug their children and grandchildren again” said Kyle Janssen, pharmacist and owner of Community Pharmacy. “We’ve witnessed first-hand the effects of this pandemic in long-term care homes. Out of all the assistance we’ve been able to provide them with since March, this will be the most impactful. This effort is so important to us. We feel very comfortable to go into the facilities and not disrupt their daily duties. Fifty years from now, we’ll still be able to say this was on one of our biggest contributions we’ve made in our health care career...maybe even in our lifetime.”

Currently the FDA has issued an emergency use authorization for the two COVID-19 vaccines – Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine and Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine. Pharmacy networks have been put in place nationwide to ensure pharmacies can begin distributing any approved vaccines shortly after FDA authorization. Community Pharmacy is one of seven long-term care pharmacies authorized to dispense and administer COVID-19 vaccines across the United States.