

## **ICYMI: COVID-19 VACCINE RESOURCES: WHAT PARTNERS NEED TO KNOW NOW**

As COVID-19 vaccines continue across the country, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is taking action to protect the health and safety of our nation's patients and providers and keeping you updated on the latest COVID-19 resources from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and CMS.

With information coming from many different sources, CMS has up-to-date resources and materials to help you share important and relevant information on the COVID-19 vaccine with the people that you serve. You can find these and more resources on the COVID-19 Partner Resources Page and the HHS COVID Education Campaign page. We look forward to partnering with you to encourage our beneficiaries to get vaccinated when they have the opportunity. For more information, visit the CMS COVID-19 Policies and Guidance page.

## **ICYMI: COVID-19-RELATED COVERAGE AND PAYMENT**

### **Medicare covering immunocompromised boosters**

Medicare stands ready to pay for administering an additional dose of COVID-19 vaccine consistent with the FDA emergency use authorization (EUA). We'll pay the same amount to administer this additional dose as we did for other doses of the COVID-19 vaccine (approximately \$40 each). We'll share more information in the coming days about billing and coding.

For additional information:

- [View the FDA announcement](#)
- [CMS COVID-19 Provider Toolkit](#)

### **COVID-19 Vaccines Additional Doses for Those Who Are Immunocompromised: Codes & Payment**

The FDA amended the emergency use authorizations (EUAs) for both the Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine (PDF) and the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine (PDF) to allow for an additional dose in certain immunocompromised people.

Effective August 12, 2021, CMS will pay to administer additional doses of COVID-19 vaccines consistent with the FDA EUAs, using CPT code 0003A for the Pfizer vaccine and CPT code 0013A for the Moderna vaccine. We'll pay the same amount to administer this additional dose as we did for other doses of the COVID-19 vaccine (approximately \$40 each).

We'll hold and then process all claims with these codes after we complete claims system updates (no later than August 27). People with Medicare will receive this 3rd dose at no cost to them.

Learn more about Medicare COVID-19 vaccine:

- [COVID-19 Vaccine Codes](#)
- [Payment](#)

## **Medicaid and Marketplace booster coverage**

In response to the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) recent actions that authorize an additional dose of COVID-19 vaccine for immunocompromised individuals, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is assuring those enrolled in Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and most group health plans and health insurance coverage who qualify for this additional dose that they can receive it for free.

For additional information:

- View the CDC Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines Currently Authorized in the United States
- View the FDA announcement
- Medicare COVID-19 Provider Toolkit
- COVID-19 Vaccine Toolkit for Health Insurance Issuers and Medicare Advantage Plan Payers

## **COVID-19 Vaccine Updates**

CMS in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), is developing an emergency regulation requiring staff vaccinations within the nation's more than 15,000 Medicare and Medicaid-participating nursing homes. This new requirement is a key component of protecting the health and safety of nursing home residents and staff by ensuring that all nursing home staff receive COVID-19 vaccinations. More information on the new requirement - can be found [here](#).

## **Information on COVID-19 Booster Shots**

The COVID-19 vaccines authorized in the United States continue to be remarkably effective in reducing risk of severe disease, hospitalization, and death, even against the widely circulating Delta variant. Recognizing that many vaccines are associated with a reduction in protection over time, and acknowledging that additional vaccine doses could be needed to provide long lasting protection, we have been analyzing the scientific data closely from the United States and around the world to understand how long this protection will last and how we might maximize this protection.

The full joint statement on COVID-19 Booster Shots- can be found [here](#).

## **COVID-19 Vaccines While Pregnant**

The vaccines are safe and effective, and it has never been more urgent to increase vaccinations as we face the highly transmissible Delta variant and see severe outcomes from COVID-19 among unvaccinated pregnant people.

For more on COVID-19 vaccines and pregnant people, please visit the CDC website for the latest resources [here](#).

## **New materials for vaccinating young adults**

With students headed back to school, and young adults' vaccination rates lagging those of older people, reaching these groups is vital to the effort to defeat COVID-19 in the U.S. It's critical that trusted, vaccinated individuals, like you, have conversations with people in their communities about getting vaccinated.

For additional resources to equip you with information - can be found here

### **Vaccines.gov - Making it Easier to Find Vaccines**

Visit [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov), text GETVAX (438829), or call the National COVID-19 Vaccination Assistance Hotline at 1-800-232-0233 to search and find a vaccine near you.

Visit [vacunas.gov](https://www.vacunasspanish.gov) (Spanish), VACUNA {822862} for Spanish to receive three vaccine sites on your phone within seconds.

### **STAY CONNECTED**

**Join the We Can Do This Community Corps:** Help in the fight against COVID-19 by encouraging family, friends, and your community to get vaccinated. Join the Community Corps to get tips, tools and resources to share. See <https://wecandothis.hhs.gov/covidcommunitycorps>

For more information on CMS COVID-19 Partner Updates, please contact us: [Partnership@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Partnership@cms.hhs.gov)

Navigator organizations are getting expanded to help people enroll in coverage through the Marketplace, Medicaid, or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 30 states with a Federally-Facilitated Marketplace. Through \$80 million in grant awards for the 2022 plan year, 60 Navigator awardee organizations will be able to train and certify more than 1,500 Navigators to help uninsured consumers find affordable and comprehensive health coverage.

The Navigator awardees include community and consumer-focused non-profits, faith-based organizations, hospitals, trade and professional associations, and tribes or tribal organizations. Navigators help families and other underserved communities gain access to health coverage options through the Marketplace, Medicaid, or CHIP. They can assist with enrollment applications and help consumers receive financial assistance through

HealthCare.gov. With the additional funding, more Navigator organizations can provide assistance to people with limited English proficiency in multiple languages. They can also provide more assistance to rural areas and communities of color.

To read the HHS press release, visit: <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2021/08/27/biden-harris-administration-quadruples-number-of-health-care-navigators-ahead-healthcare-open-enrollment-period.html>