

Important Information About COVID-19 Vaccine Coverage and Availability

The U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) has [authorized the first COVID-19 vaccine](#). The vaccine is an important step toward preventing the spread of the virus. While there is still a lot of uncertainty around the vaccine distribution plans, we want to keep you informed related to coverage for the vaccine.

COVID-19 vaccine availability for all members

The federal government is coordinating the distribution plans for the COVID-19 vaccine with state health agencies. Initially, there will be a limited supply of the vaccine and it will be distributed to the populations at the highest risk, including healthcare workers, first responders such as police and paramedics, individuals residing in group settings (such as nursing homes), and people with underlying health conditions that put them at risk for serious complications from COVID-19.

Each state will communicate its distribution plans to the population. Groups and members located in Ohio can visit [Coronavirus.Ohio.gov](https://www.coronavirus.ohio.gov) and click the COVID-19 Vaccination Program tab for more information. Members who live outside Ohio, or groups with a large number of employees located outside Ohio, should refer to the state health agency's COVID-19 website for details.

Once the COVID-19 vaccine becomes widely available, members will be able to receive the vaccine from healthcare providers and pharmacies. There may also be community vaccination sites set up throughout the state. Members should use the national vaccine finder website at [VaccineFinder.org](https://www.vaccinefinder.org) to find a convenient location to receive the vaccine. *Please note: It may take several weeks for the information on the national vaccine finder to be updated as the vaccine makes its way across the country.*

INFORMATION FOR COMMERCIAL AND INDIVIDUAL PLANS

Coverage of the COVID-19 vaccine

Health plans must cover all authorized COVID-19 vaccines with no member cost sharing. Initially, the cost of the vaccine product will be covered by the federal government with funding authorized through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Health plans must cover the cost to have someone administer the vaccine, regardless of the number of doses. Health plans must also cover the office visit without cost sharing if the primary purpose of the visit is to administer the COVID-19 vaccine.

Members will be able to get the vaccine from in-network or out-of-network providers during the national public health emergency declared by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. After the national public health emergency ends, members will be able to get the vaccine from in-network providers with no member cost sharing, similar to how the flu vaccine is covered.

Grandfathered plans

For fully insured grandfathered plans, the administration of the vaccine will be covered with no member cost sharing.

MEDICARE ADVANTAGE AND MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT PLANS

Coverage of the COVID-19 vaccine

For the remainder of 2020 and all of 2021, Original Medicare will cover the costs of all necessary doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, as well as the cost to have someone administer the vaccine, for Medicare Advantage, EGWP and Medicare Supplement members. No member cost sharing will be applied. After the public health emergency ends, the COVID-19 vaccine will be included as a preventive benefit under the members' health plans beginning with the 2022 plan year.

Medicare Advantage members can receive the vaccine from providers outside of the Medicare network with no member cost sharing during the public health emergency declared by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Medicare Supplement members can receive the vaccine from any provider or location that accepts Medicare.

This is the latest update as of December 2020. Things will continue to change. Be sure to contact us or your carrier directly.