CMS COVID-19 Vaccine Update

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What is known about COVID-19?

- Infection with SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, can result in a range of illness, from mild symptoms to severe illness and death.

- We don't know how SARS-CoV-2 will affect each person.

- Some people, such as adults 65 and older or people with certain medical conditions, are more likely than others to become severely ill.

How to prevent COVID-19

- Wear a mask that covers your mouth and nose.

- Avoid close contact with others. Stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arm lengths) from other people.

- Avoid crowds and poorly ventilated spaces.

- Wash hands often with soap and water.

- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily.

- Get a COVID-19 vaccine.

COVID-19 vaccination is a safer way to build protection

- Getting the virus that causes COVID-19 may offer some natural protection, known as an antibody or immune. But experts don't know how long this protection lasts.

- The risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19 far outweighs any benefits of natural immunity.

- COVID-19 vaccination will help protect you by building immunity without the risk of severe illness.

Key facts about COVID-19 vaccination

Getting vaccinated can help prevent getting sick with COVID-19

People who have already gotten sick with COVID-19 may still benefit from getting vaccinated

COVID-19 vaccines <u>cannot</u> give you COVID-19

COVID-19 vaccines will not cause you to test positive on COVID-19 <u>viral</u> tests*

Medicare & COVID-19 Vaccines

- Added as Part B preventive service with no copay or deductible
  - Covers [FDA-approved COVID-19 vaccines](#).
  - Medicare also covers [COVID-19 tests](#), [COVID-19 antibody tests](#), and [COVID-19 monoclonal antibody treatments](#).

- Medicare Advantage (MA)

  - MA plan members pay nothing for vaccine, no copay or deductible
  - Providers bill Original Medicare for vaccine administration in calendar years (CY) 2020 and 2021
  - Through 2021, no plan network restrictions for MA plan members to get their vaccine

Other Coverage for COVID-19 Vaccine Administration

Medicaid

- Must provide vaccine administration at no cost to beneficiaries during the PHE

- Post-PHE states can reevaluate policies based on populations and amend State Plans as needed

Private Insurers

- Most private insurers cover vaccine in and out of network at no cost

Uninsured

- Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) program to reimburse vaccine administration for uninsured and underinsured individuals

Guidance That Isn't Changing

If you leave home, know your 3 Ws!

WEAR
a cloth mask over your nose and mouth.

WAIT
6 FEET

6 feet apart. Avoid close contact.

WASH
your hands or use hand sanitizer.

CDC Toolkit to Help Disability Communities

CDC created a Toolkit to help people with disabilities and those who serve or care for them make decisions, protect their health, and communicate with their communities. This toolkit has several resources including:

- **Guidance for Vaccinating Older Adults and People with Disabilities: Ensuring Equitable COVID-19 Vaccine Access** - summarizes what jurisdictions should consider when planning to vaccinate older adults and people with disabilities living in the community.

- **Vaccine Considerations for People with Disabilities** - provides information for people with disabilities and for their care providers.

- **Guidance for Direct Service Providers for People with Disabilities** – provides information for direct service providers who provide a wide variety of home and community-based, health-related services that support people with disabilities

- https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/toolkits/people-with-disabilities.html

HealthCare.gov Special Enrollment Period 2021

Overview & Background

- An Executive Order issued January 28, 2021 created an emergency Special Enrollment Period (SEP) due to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE), to allow individuals and families to apply and enroll in the coverage they need

- Available February 15 – Aug 15, 2021

- Available to consumers in the 36 states using the HealthCare.gov platform

- At least 13 of the remaining states and the District of Columbia are offering a similar opportunity through their own Marketplace platforms

Special Enrollment Period: Feb. 15 – Aug. 15

- People seeking health insurance can go to HealthCare.gov right now, until Aug. 15th because of a Special Enrollment Period.

- 9 out of 10 people who enrolled got financial assistance.

- 3 out of 4 currently enrolled can find plans for $50 or less.

- Go to HealthCare.gov to learn more.
  - In Maryland: https://www.marylandhealthconnection.gov/
  - In DC: https://dchealthlink.com/

Feedback

Thank you for attending this session with CMS. We appreciate your time. We are always trying to improve our level of service to our customers and stakeholders. You can help us do that by providing your feedback on today's session. Please take a few moments to complete this brief evaluation. Just click on the link below to go to the evaluation.

https://cmsgov.force.com/act/Evaluation

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Feedback