Bridge Access Program

Ensuring no-cost, timely access to the 2023-2024 COVID-19 vaccines for adults

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Why Do We Need the Bridge Access Program for COVID-19 Vaccines?

There are **25-30 million adults (ages 18-64) without insurance**, and additional adults whose insurance will not provide no-cost coverage for COVID-19 vaccines after these products are commercialized.

This program will serve as **temporary bridge to the permanent and comprehensive Vaccines for Adults Program** proposed in the FY23 and FY24 President’s Budgets.

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*Underinsured is defined here as related to vaccination coverage.
1. Data are internal CDC estimates.
Ensuring no-cost, timely access to COVID-19 vaccines

- Established access for those with insurance
- Established access for children
- Ensuring no-cost access for adults
- **Program design to maximize proximity**
- Program design to maximize equity
- Timely access for all
Providers

The analysis on which estimates of proximity are based considers a variety of provider types and locations that will participate in the Bridge Access Program. Access may increase if additional providers participate.

• ~8,000 317-enrolled providers
• ~4,500 State-funded vaccine providers
• ~1,400 HRSA-supported health centers (HRSA)
• ~21k Pharmacies
  • ~10k CVS locations
  • ~9k Walgreens locations
  • ~2,000 eTrue North locations – number may increase
Where Will Vaccines Be Available Through the Bridge Access Program?

**Local Healthcare Providers**

*Existing partnerships with state and local health departments (S/LHDs) will facilitate distribution of COVID-19 vaccines through providers in networks*

CDC will manage purchase and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines and provide oversight and technical assistance. **State immunization programs** will design distribution of vaccines.

**Local Health Centers**

Health Centers* will partner with state immunization programs to ensure access to COVID-19 vaccines for uninsured adults

HRSA will provide funding to participating HRSA-supported health centers to support services that will help ensure equitable access. **State immunization programs** will design distribution of vaccines.

**Pharmacies**

Pharmacies will ensure access to no-cost COVID-19 vaccines using their extensive footprints and community partnerships

Vaccines will be donated by manufacturers to pharmacies, and administration costs will be covered by CDC.

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*HRSA-funded health centers and Health Center Program look-alike organizations*
Overall, 85% of uninsured populations live <5 miles from Bridge Access Program site:
• Urban: 97%
• Suburban: 59%
• Rural: 39%

Overall, 5% of uninsured populations estimated to be >10 miles from Bridge Access Program site.

Note: Some points may not be visible due to point overlap. Points are displayed in order of site count from least to most: top - eTN, HRSA, State, 317, Walgreens, CVS - bottom)
Bridge Access Program Retail Pharmacy Approaches

▪ **CVS** plans to administer doses within both their storefronts and Minute clinics

▪ **Walgreens** plans to administer doses in both their storefronts and at off-site events targeting areas of low access & low uptake

▪ **eTrueNorth** is a pharmacy aggregator that subcontracts with smaller pharmacies
  – Intended to reach lower-access areas without other coverage within the Bridge Access Program
  – Additional subcontract negotiations between eTrueNorth and possible additional participating pharmacies are ongoing
Ensuring no-cost, timely access to COVID-19 vaccines

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- Established access for those with insurance
- Established access for children
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- Program design to maximize proximity
- Program design to maximize equity
The Bridge Program would address leading barriers to COVID-19 vaccination:

### Accessibility
- Lack of health insurance or a regular provider
- Lack of proximity or transportation to place of care
- Designing for optimized proximity (variety of provider/site types, low-access and low-coverage lists and payments)

### Availability
- Inconsistent coverage across health insurance policies
- Inconsistent outreach and engagement from health systems
- Providing access to COVID-19 vaccines for uninsured and underinsured adults at no cost

### Confidence
- History of disparities, discriminatory patterns and racism
- Rise in inaccurate information about vaccines
- Supporting and growing vaccine confidence through partnerships with trusted and welcome messengers
Lessons learned from 2022-2023 COVID-19 bivalent booster uptake

Priority Populations

- Older adults
- People who are immunocompromised
- People who need community-level outreach

Trusted and Welcome Messengers Pairing Messaging with Access

- Healthcare providers
- Caregivers
- Family members
- Community-level advocates

Barriers to Vaccination

- COVID-19 message fatigue
- Misinformation
- Access challenges

COVID-19 Booster Uptake

cdc.gov/coronavirus
Community-based partnerships are key

Community-based organizations and other partners work with CDC, pharmacies, jurisdictions, and HRSA-supported health centers to reduce barriers to COVID-19 vaccine access and promote uptake. These partners are particularly critical to reaching people who are uninsured or underinsured.

FUNDED PARTNERS

*CBOs and other funded partners will:*

- Host community outreach events to spread awareness of the Bridge Program
- Work within their communities as trusted and welcome messengers
- Partner with providers to hold vaccine clinics to provide greater access to vaccination
- Develop educational materials to promote COVID-19 vaccination and the Bridge Program
The Bridge Access Program is a temporary “bridge” to a permanent Vaccines for Adults (VFA) Program.

The Bridge Access Program serves as a temporary solution for access to COVID-19 vaccines for adults. VFA and additional 317 funding are needed to bridge the gap in equitable access to immunization across the lifespan.
Resources for partners

- **CDC’s Bridge Website**
  - A central location for information and communications assets

- **Program guides for specific implementing partners**

- **Clinician-facing calls and materials for vaccine providers**

- **Communications toolkit for partners**
  - Digital toolkit for program resources and promotional materials including key messages, sample newsletter, and communications assets

- **vaccines.gov**
  - Where patients and care providers can go this week to find all sites providing no-cost COVID-19 vaccines through the Bridge Access Program, as well as all other providers for COVID-19 or influenza vaccines

- **Bridge Access Program Call Center**
  - Available this week through 1-800-CDC-INFO
  - [https://www.cdc.gov/cdc-info/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/cdc-info/index.html)
Thank you

For more information, contact CDC
1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)

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