

# Frequently Asked Questions about the Bridge Access Program

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National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases  
Immunization Services Division

## Table of Contents

<b>Bridge Access Program General FAQs .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Bridge Access Program FAQs for Healthcare Providers .....</b>	<b>5</b>

## Bridge Access Program General FAQs

### **What is CDC's Bridge Access Program?**

CDC's Bridge Access Program provides no-cost COVID-19 vaccines to adults without health insurance and adults whose insurance does not cover all COVID-19 vaccine costs. No-cost COVID-19 vaccines through this program will be available until December 31, 2024.

### **Why is this Program important?**

In Fall 2023, the U.S. Government COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Program will end. CDC's Bridge Access Program is a public-private partnership to help maintain access to no-cost COVID-19 vaccines for adults who are underinsured or uninsured through their local pharmacies, the existing public health infrastructure, and their local health centers.

COVID-19 vaccines are still covered at no cost for most people living in the U.S. through their private health insurance, Medicare and Medicaid plans. However, there are 25-30 million adults without insurance and additional adults whose insurance does not provide no-cost COVID-19 vaccines after these products move onto the commercial market.

### **Who can get COVID-19 vaccines through this program?**

Adults 18 years and older without health insurance can get a no-cost COVID-19 vaccine through the Bridge Access Program. Additionally, adults with health insurance that does not cover all COVID-19 vaccine costs can access updated COVID-19 vaccines through this program.

### **Can adults with health insurance that does not cover the entire cost of COVID-19 vaccines get COVID-19 vaccines through this program?**

Yes, adults with health insurance that does not cover the entire cost of COVID-19 vaccines can get a no-cost COVID-19 vaccine through the Bridge Access Program.

### **Are Indian Health Service (IHS) facilities and populations covered by the Bridge Access Program?**

Any adult living in the U.S. who does not have insurance or whose insurance does not provide no-cost access to COVID-19 vaccines, including adults who receive care through IHS facilities, is eligible to receive cost-free access to COVID-19 vaccines through the Bridge Access Program. IHS clinics will need to become enrolled providers under their state's adult vaccine program to be eligible to order and administer the vaccine through this program. Members of Federally-recognized Tribes can also get no-cost COVID-19 vaccines at Indian Health Service, Tribal or Urban Indian Health Program facilities, regardless of the provider's enrollment status with CDC's Bridge Access Program. All children who are members of Federally-recognized Tribes can also get no-cost COVID-19 vaccines through the Vaccines for Children Program.

### **Are correctional facilities and populations covered by the Bridge Access Program?**

The public health infrastructure component of CDC's Bridge Access Program works through the state and jurisdiction immunization programs. State correctional facilities should contact their state's immunization program to discuss which correctional facilities, if any, are included in Bridge Access Program COVID-19 vaccine distribution. Federal correctional facilities should contact Bureau of Prisons for any questions regarding funding for COVID-19 vaccines.

**Will children who do not have health insurance be able to get COVID-19 vaccines through this program?**

The Bridge Access Program will cover adults without health insurance and adults whose health insurance does not all COVID-19 vaccine costs. Pediatric populations under 19 years of age who do not have insurance or who are members of Federally-recognized Tribes will be covered by the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program.

**How does a patient enroll in this program?**

The Bridge Access Program is designed to remove patient barriers to COVID-19 vaccines. The burden of patient eligibility verification will be on our healthcare systems, not on patients. There is no enrollment process for eligible adults to get no-cost COVID-19 vaccines through the Bridge Access Program. Providers will ask patients whether they have health insurance at the point of care to determine eligibility.

**Will non-COVID-19 vaccines be covered through the Bridge Access Program?**

The Bridge Access Program will support only COVID-19 vaccinations and will not provide access to other vaccines routinely recommended for adults, such as flu, pneumonia, and Shingrix.

**Where can someone get no-cost COVID-19 vaccines through this program?**

COVID-19 vaccines through this program are available at participating local healthcare providers, local health centers, and pharmacies. Visit [Vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) for find a provider that offers no-cost COVID-19 vaccines through the Bridge Access Program.

**What pharmacy chains are participating in this program?**

CDC established new contracts with CVS, Walgreens, and eTrueNorth through existing [Increasing Community Access to Testing \(ICATT\)](#) contracts to provide no-cost COVID-19 vaccines.

**Will the Bridge Access Program cover COVID-19 and flu testing?**

The Bridge Access Program does not provide additional funds for COVID-19 or flu testing. No-cost access to COVID-19 and Flu testing will be maintained through current government supplies and manufacturer Patient Assistance Programs.

**Will therapeutics be covered by the Bridge Access Program?**

The Bridge Access Program does not provide additional funds for COVID-19 therapeutics. No-cost access to therapeutics will be maintained through current government supplies and manufacturer patient assistance programs.

**What types of COVID-19 vaccines will be covered by this program?**

All CDC-recommended COVID-19 vaccinations will be included the Bridge Access Program.

**How long will no-cost COVID-19 vaccines be available through this program?**

The Bridge Access Program will provide no-cost COVID-19 vaccines through December 31, 2024.

**How can someone get no-cost COVID-19 vaccines after this program ends?**

The Vaccines for Adults (VFA) program, proposed in the FY 2023 and 2024 Presidential Budget, would be a long-term solution to ensure all adults have access to recommend vaccinations, including COVID-19 vaccines, at no cost to them.

Visit the CDC's [Frequently Asked Questions page](#) for more information about COVID 19 vaccinations.  
For more questions, visit [Bridge Access Program](#) or email [PolicyISDBridge@cdc.gov](mailto:PolicyISDBridge@cdc.gov).

## Bridge Access Program FAQs for Healthcare Providers

### **How do I know if a patient is eligible for COVID-19 vaccines through this program?**

Providers participating in the Bridge Access Program will ask patients whether they have health insurance at the point of care to determine eligibility.

### **How will providers ensure people served do not have health insurance or do not have access to cost-free coverage of vaccinations?**

The Bridge Access Program is designed to get rid of patient barriers to COVID-19 vaccines. The burden of patient eligibility verification will be on our healthcare systems, not on patients.

### **What do I do if my patient is not eligible for COVID-19 vaccines through this program?**

Many adults with health insurance will be able to get no-cost COVID-19 vaccines through their insurance plan. Children under 19 years of age who do not have health insurance or who are members of Federally-recognized Tribes will be covered by the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program.

### **Where can I find guidance on COVID-19 administration?**

Guidance on COVID-19 vaccine administration specific to the Bridge Access Program will be available on the [CDC Bridge Access Program website](#). Additional information related to COVID-19 vaccine administration is available on the CDC website at the following links:

- COVID-19 Vaccination Clinical & Professional Resources: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/index.html>
- Clinical Guidance on COVID-19 Vaccine Administration: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/interim-considerations-us.html>
- Vaccine Administration Protocols: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/admin/admin-protocols.html>
- CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Program Provider Requirements and Support: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/vaccination-provider-support.html>

### **Will providers participating in the Bridge Access Program be required to report to Vaccines.gov?**

All providers participating in the Bridge Access Program will be required to indicate vaccine availability (not report inventory) on [Vaccines.gov](#).

### **Can new providers be enrolled in the Bridge Access Program?**

Jurisdictions may use their existing processes to enroll new providers. New providers interested in becoming a Section 317 provider under the Bridge Access Program should reach out to their state/local immunization program for enrollment details. Any provider or health center enrolled as a 317 adult provider is eligible to order CDC-procured COVID-19 vaccines and administer them to adults who are un- and underinsured as part of the Bridge Access Program.

### **Are awardees required to enroll more providers in the 317 Program?**

There is no requirement to enroll providers nor a quota for the number of providers to be enrolled. CDC encourages awardees to establish provider networks in areas with high numbers of uninsured adults.

### **What is the process for a health center to register to become a Section 317 Provider?**

Health centers interested in becoming a section 317 provider under the Bridge Access Program can reach out to their state/local immunization program for enrollment details and processes. States are using their existing enrollment processes.

**How will participating pharmacies receive COVID-19 vaccines for this program?**

Pharmacies will procure vaccines directly from the manufacturers under this program.

**How will participating pharmacies be reimbursed for administration fees?**

Pharmacies will procure vaccines directly from the manufacturers under this program. Administration costs will be covered by the federal government. The Bridge Access Program will provide a per-dose payment to pharmacies in order to facilitate the administration of any COVID-19 vaccines at no cost for adults without health insurance coverage or those whose coverage does not provide cost-free coverage of COVID-19 vaccines.

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