

Presented for informational purposes only and not intended to constitute reimbursement or legal advice. Healthcare providers should refer to their own resources for billing and reimbursement purposes.

COVID-19 vaccine coverage and reimbursement

- The Federal Public Health Emergency (PHE) for COVID-19 ended May 11, 2023, and the U.S. Government (USG) has not received additional funds from Congress to purchase more vaccines and treatments¹
- Reimbursement for vaccines and administration services are now covered under traditional health plans and other private and public healthcare payers¹
- The Food and Drug Administration’s emergency use authorizations for COVID-19 vaccines remain in effect because those authorizations are tied to a separate emergency declaration, not the PHE that ended in May 2023²
- The Inflation Reduction Act requires the full coverage of adult vaccines, including COVID-19 vaccines, under Medicaid at no cost to the patient³
- Medicare Part B covers COVID-19 vaccines, per the CARES Act.⁴ As a result, Medicare reimburses Medicare-enrolled providers for COVID-19 vaccines and vaccine administration services, and patients have no cost-sharing for COVID-19 vaccines¹

COVID-19 vaccine coverage by insurance type

Following is an overview of COVID-19 vaccines–related reimbursement depending on patients’ insurance type: Medicare, Medicaid, and private/commercial.

Note: These descriptions are high-level summaries. The information provided is not a guarantee of coverage of payment (partial or full) and is subject to change without notice.

Medicare

COVID-19 vaccines are covered under Part B, not Part D.

Medicare coverage ⁵	Cost to patient ⁵	Provider reimbursement
Part B all beneficiaries	None, whether for EUA or BLA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 95% of AWP⁵• Approximately \$45 administration fee per dose through December 2025⁶
Part D	N/A	N/A

AWP = average wholesale price; BLA = Biologics License Application; EUA = emergency use authorization.

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Medicaid⁵

Medicaid coverage	Cost to patient	Provider reimbursement
State Medicaid coverage varies depending on state, program, patient age, and other factors	None	States reimburse for vaccines, their administration, and office visits; reimbursement is widely variable per population and state rules ⁷

Private/commercial

Per the ACA and the CARES Act, most private health plans must cover COVID-19 preventive services for members regardless of whether patients see an in-network or an out-of-network provider.^{4,5}

Private/commercial coverage ⁵	Cost to patient ⁵	Provider reimbursement ⁷
Employer-sponsored or individually purchased	None*	Vaccine and an administration fee are variable per contract

*Assumes no change in Affordable Care Act (ACA) or its vaccine coverage.

References: **1.** U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. Fact Sheet: COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Transition Roadmap. Published February 9, 2023. Accessed October 10, 2024. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/02/09/fact-sheet-covid-19-public-health-emergency-transition-roadmap.html> **2.** Kaiser Family Foundation. The End of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency: Details on Health Coverage and Access. Published February 3, 2023. Accessed October 10, 2024. <https://www.kff.org/policy-watch/the-end-of-the-covid-19-public-health-emergency-details-on-health-coverage-and-access/> **3.** Inflation Reduction Act, H.R.5376, 117th Congress. Published August 16, 2022. Accessed October 10, 2024. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/5376/text> **4.** Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, S. 3203, 116th Congress. March 27, 2020. Accessed October 10, 2024. <https://www.congress.gov/116/plaws/publ136/PLAW-116publ136.pdf> **5.** Kaiser Family Foundation. Vaccine coverage, pricing, and reimbursement in the U.S. Published November 18, 2020. Accessed October 10, 2024. <https://www.kff.org/coronavirus-covid-19/issue-brief/vaccine-coverage-pricing-and-reimbursement-in-the-u-s> **6.** Medicare and Medicaid Programs; CY 2025 Payment Policies Under the Physician Fee Schedule and Other Changes to Part B Payment and Coverage Policies; Medicare Shared Savings Program Requirements; Medicare Prescription Drug Inflation Rebate Program; and Medicare Overpayments. Federal Register: The Daily Journal of the United States Government. Published December 9, 2024. Accessed January 21, 2025. <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/12/09/2024-25382/medicare-and-medicare-programs-cy-2025-payment-policies-under-the-physician-fee-schedule-and-other> **7.** Kaiser Family Foundation. Commercialization of COVID-19 Vaccines, Treatments and Tests: Implications for Access and Coverage. Published February 6, 2024. Accessed October 10, 2024. <https://www.kff.org/coronavirus-covid-19/issue-brief/commercialization-of-covid-19-vaccines-treatments-and-tests-implications-for-access-and-coverage/>