

COVID-19 VACCINE COMMERCIALIZATION: WHAT THIS MEANS FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS/SYSTEMS

What is commercialization:

The COVID-19 Vaccination Program and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines by the US Government (USG) stops and vaccines are transitioned to the commercial market.

How will patients be impacted by commercialization?

Children eligible for the Vaccines For Children (VFC) program will be able to receive COVID-19 vaccines at no cost. Adults with no insurance will have access to vaccines at no cost through the [Bridge Access Program for COVID-19 Vaccines and Treatments](#). The program will make vaccines available through state immunization programs, local health departments, HRSA-supported health centers, and pharmacies. Patients with private insurance will access COVID-19 vaccines the same way they access other vaccinations upon commercialization.

How will commercialization impact ordering?

COVID-19 Vaccines through VFC/Bridge Access: It is anticipated that there will not be a separate process for obtaining COVID-19 vaccines for VFC providers and they will be ordered the same way other VFC vaccines are ordered through I-CARE. It is likely vaccines for uninsured adults will be obtained through a separate process through state and local health departments.

Private Stock: Once commercialized, it is likely that COVID-19 vaccines will be ordered in the same way other commercialized vaccines are ordered.

Will there be single dose vials?

The hope is that upon commercialization single-dose vials and lower-minimum quantity orders will be available.

How much will COVID-19 vaccines cost providers to purchase?

There is uncertainty about the upfront cost that may be required from providers to purchase COVID-19 vaccines at this time.

Will/when will vaccine schedules change?

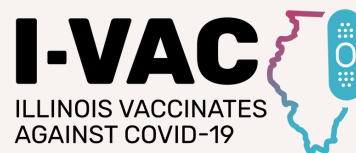
An updated recommendation from the FDA is expected for all ages in mid to late September. FDA has instructed manufacturers to target the XBB.1.5 strain.

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Will reporting requirements change?

Until the transition / USG program ends, providers should ensure they continue to complete all reporting requirements outlined in the COVID-19 Vaccination Program Provider Agreement. According to the CDC: direction will be forthcoming on activities to complete prior to the program ending.

Reporting of COVID-19 vaccines administered, inventory, etc. through VFC or other public programs will be required the same way they are for other vaccines.

Upon commercialization, providers will no longer be asked to report their inventory to vaccines.gov; however, it will still be encouraged to ensure the public knows where to find free COVID-19 vaccines.

What is the AAP doing to advocate for pediatricians as commercialization approaches?

The AAP is advocating for:

- Longer invoice and payment schedules so that pediatricians can be reimbursed before having to purchase additional vaccines.
- Simplified and improved labeling of COVID-19 vials to minimize errors in administration.
- An easier return process for expired doses.
- Single-dose vials for all products.
- Easing of storage requirements.
- Allow borrowing between VFC and commercial COVID-19 stock.

Will billing codes change once commercialization occurs?

There will likely be new CPT codes once fall monovalent vaccines are available.

Read the [HHS COMMERCIALIZATION TRANSITION GUIDE](#) for more information.

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