

Bridge Access Program

PROGRAM OVERVIEW *CDC's Bridge Access Program*



Adults can still get a COVID-19 vaccine for free!

The distribution of COVID-19 vaccines changed in September 2023 as these products moved to the commercial market.

COVID-19 vaccines are still available for free to most people living in the U.S. through their private health insurance, Medicare, and Medicaid plans. However, there are **25-30 million adults without health insurance and additional adults whose insurance** doesn't fully cover a COVID-19 vaccine.

CDC's Bridge Access Program provides free COVID-19 vaccines to adults without health insurance and adults whose insurance doesn't fully cover all COVID-19 vaccine costs from a provider in their network.



Who can get a free COVID-19 vaccine through this program?

- Adults 18 years and older without health insurance and adults whose health insurance plan doesn't cover a COVID-19 vaccine without cost-sharing at in-network provider.

The Bridge Access Program will end by **December 31, 2024.**



All CDC-recommended updated COVID-19 vaccines are included in the Bridge Access Program.



<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/bridge/downloads/bridge-access-program-overview.pdf>

To protect and improve the health and environment of all Kansans

Bridge Access Program

Where can someone get a free COVID-19 vaccine through the Bridge Access Program?



Visit vaccines.gov to find a provider that offers free COVID-19 vaccines through the Bridge Access Program.

*Providers must be enrolled in your health department's 317 program and participating in CDC's Bridge Access 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.

Questions or want to learn more?

Visit cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/bridge



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Uninsured? You can still get a free COVID-19 vaccine!

Uninsured adults 18 years and older can get a free updated COVID-19 vaccine through the CDC [Bridge Access Program](#). Additionally, adults whose insurance doesn't cover COVID-19 costs in-network can get a free updated COVID-19 vaccine through the Bridge Access Program. Visit [vaccines.gov](#) to find a provider participating in the Bridge Access Program.

Children 18 years and younger who are eligible for the [Vaccines for Children \(VFC\)](#) program may get an updated COVID-19 vaccine from a provider enrolled in that program. Parents might be charged a visit fee or administration fee, but will not be turned away for inability to pay the administration fee. Ask your child's provider if they are enrolled in the VFC program.

Tips for people having problems getting a free updated COVID-19 vaccine

- If you had trouble getting a free COVID-19 vaccine before, check again. CDC is working closely with vaccine manufacturers, distributors, and providers to improve COVID-19 vaccine access.
- Call before you go! Reach out to your provider about the cost and availability of COVID-19 vaccines before you schedule an appointment.
- If you have health insurance and think you were incorrectly charged for a COVID-19 vaccine, please contact your insurance provider.
- If you think a healthcare provider incorrectly charged you for a COVID-19 vaccine, please contact that provider directly.

Did You Know Your Child Can Get Free Vaccines?

Vaccines for Children Can Help

The Vaccines for Children (VFC) program provides free vaccines to children who qualify. About half of American children less than 19 years old receive VFC vaccine.

Is my child eligible for the VFC Program?

Children are eligible if it is before their 19th birthday and they:

- Qualify for Medicaid
- Don't have insurance
- Are American Indian or Alaska Native

Children whose insurance doesn't cover some or all routinely recommended vaccines (underinsured) can still get vaccines through VFC if they go to a Federally Qualified Health Center or Rural Health Clinic.

Where can I go to get my child vaccinated?

- Ask if your child's doctor or nurse is a VFC provider. Nationally, there are thousands of health care providers enrolled in the VFC program.
- If your child does not have a doctor, ask if your local public health department provides vaccines.
- Visit a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) or Rural Health Clinic (RHC).

How much will I have to pay?

- All routinely recommended vaccines are free through the VFC Program.
- Doctors can charge fees to give each shot. However, they cannot refuse to vaccinate your child if you are unable to pay these fees.
- The doctor can charge additional fees for the office visit or non-vaccine services such as an eye exam or blood test.

Where can I get more information?

- Ask your child's doctor's office if they participate in VFC.
- If you don't have a regular doctor's office:
 - See if your state has a searchable website for VFC providers.
 - Call your [state or local health department](#).
 - Visit [findahealthcenter.hrsa.gov](#) to find a Federally Qualified Health Center.



Learn more at [CDC.gov/vaccines/programs/vfc/parents/](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/vfc/parents/)