



## COLORADO

Department of Health Care  
Policy & Financing

Dear Provider,

COVID-19 vaccines are a covered benefit for Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid Program) members. Claims may be reimbursed for enrolled and qualified providers for administration of COVID-19 vaccines approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) under their Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) authority. Pharmacists enrolled with Health First Colorado may submit claims for reimbursement of the administration of COVID-19 vaccines to Health First Colorado members. Providers will receive vaccine products from the federal government at no cost. Only the administration fee associated with the vaccines may be reimbursed to providers.

### Home Health

A member receiving home health services may receive immunizations if the administration is part of a normally scheduled home health visit. A home health visit for the sole purpose of immunization administration is not a benefit.

The pharmacy may bill the vaccine as an individual dose under the member's Health First Colorado ID. The home health agency may not bill for the vaccine.

### Alternative Health Care Facilities (ACFs) and Group Homes

Residents of an ACF may receive immunizations from their physician and may also receive vaccines under home health as stated above in the home health guideline.

Health First Colorado also will reimburse pharmacists for administration of COVID-19 vaccines in Long-term Care Facilities through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) Pharmacy Partnership for Long-term Care (LTC) Program or other partnership between an LTC and a pharmacy.

### Distribution

The vaccine will be distributed in phases. These phases are designed to save as many lives as possible by vaccinating high-risk essential health care workers first. Local public health agencies, health care providers, pharmacies and diverse community partners are working with Health First Colorado to distribute the vaccine as equitably and efficiently as possible. Individual vaccine providers, in consultation with local public health agencies, will need to use their best judgement about which patients may be eligible for vaccination during each of the phases. The vaccine prioritization plan has three phases (as of December 9, 2020):

- **1A:** Highest-risk health care workers and individuals. These are the people who must have direct contact with COVID-19 patients for longer periods of time (defined as 15 minutes or more over a period of 24 hours) as part of their jobs. This phase also includes long-term care facility staff and residents.
- **1B:** Moderate-risk health care workers and responders. Health care workers who do not have prolonged direct contact with COVID-19 patients, but still work in direct patient care or as direct patient care support staff. This phase also includes Emergency Medical Services (EMS), firefighters, police, correctional workers, dispatchers, funeral services, other first responders, and COVID-19 response personnel.
- **2:** Higher-risk individuals and essential workers. People who are at an elevated risk of getting very sick or dying of COVID-19, including any adult age 65 and older, as well as adults of any age with obesity, diabetes, chronic lung disease, significant heart disease, chronic kidney disease, cancer, or who are immunocompromised. This phase includes people who have direct interactions with the public as part of their jobs, such as grocery store workers and school and child care staff, and people who work in high density settings like farms and meat-packing plants. Workers who serve people that live in high-density settings (e.g. homeless shelter or group home workers), other health care workers not included in Phase 1, and adults who received a placebo during a COVID-19 vaccine clinical trial are also included.
- The general public. Any individuals age 18-64 without high-risk conditions.

Prioritization is subject to change based on data, science and availability. Contact Christina Winship at [Christina.Winship@state.us.co](mailto:Christina.Winship@state.us.co) with questions or for more information.

The Colorado interChange is being updated with the COVID-19 vaccine procedure codes. Providers are encouraged to check the [Provider Rates & Fee Schedule web page](#) before billing to ensure the codes have a rate loaded into the Colorado interchange.

Communications will be sent with rates information in the coming weeks to notify providers that claims may be submitted for the codes.

Contact the [Provider Services Call Center](#) for general questions regarding claim submission.

Refer to the [Immunizations Fee Schedule](#) for updated rates. Refer to the [Immunizations Billing Manual](#) for information and billing guidance.

Thank you,

Department of Health Care Policy & Financing

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