

Helping You Get Started as a COVID-19 Vaccine Provider



NC DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES

COVID-19 Vaccine Everywhere

THANK YOU! Over the past year-plus, you've stepped up in big ways and made tremendous sacrifices to serve your patients and communities through this public health crisis.

We still need you. Our next phase of recovery from COVID-19 asks us to once again lean on North Carolina's front-line physicians to achieve our goal of getting every North Carolinian vaccinated against this virus as *quickly* as possible.

The vaccine environment has shifted, and so have we. With greater supply and a strong distribution system, we are moving into a different phase of our vaccine efforts. We want to ensure that vaccines are everywhere and easy to access for everyone in our state.

You may find this helpful to know

What are ways vaccine providers can participate in the new phase of North Carolina's vaccine efforts?

- ✓ Have vaccine in the office available for your patients and offer vaccinations as part of regular patient visits.
- ✓ Accommodate walk-in appointments – if possible.
- ✓ Share information. You are one of THE most trusted messengers to talk about the safety and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines. Please leverage resources from our [NCDHHS COVID-19 Communications Toolkit](#).

A North Carolina COVID-19 Response Vaccine Provider Toolkit is available to all healthcare providers as a quick reference guide. Please refer to it as needed throughout your vaccine journey.

What has changed about providing vaccine in North Carolina? North Carolina has shifted to a new vaccine allocation process. You can find extensive information about this new process and other topics in our [Provider Guidance](#), but here are the highlights of our recent changes:

- Providers are *strongly encouraged* to look locally for vaccine first via the Vaccine Marketplace tab in the CVMS Provider Portal. Providers can use this tool to search other providers in their area with extra inventory ready to transfer out *OR* providers near them seeking inventory by vaccine product. If your needs cannot be met through the Vaccine Marketplace, you can request the amount of vaccine you would like each week.
- As demand has changed, there is **no longer a 7-day requirement** to use up allocated doses (but we request that you administer at least 50% of your allocated vaccine before requesting more).
- We understand you may have some unused doses when vaccinating as part of regular patient care or accommodating walk-in appointments. Every effort should be made to minimize unused doses, but our goal of vaccinating all North Carolinians takes priority.

Do I need to do a separate vaccine clinic? No! We encourage you to offer COVID-19 vaccine as part of your practice's routine patient visits. You could also offer COVID-19 vaccine to individuals who accompany your patients to appointments.

What if I only need a small number of doses? If you need less than our minimum shipment amount (100 doses of Moderna and Johnson & Johnson, 1,170 doses of Pfizer) you can request a transfer from another provider in the community. Check out Vaccine Marketplace, available in CVMS, and contact a provider with on-hand inventory.

Why not NCIR? NCIR did not meet all the federal requirements for COVID-19 Vaccination documentation. CVMS, the COVID-19 Vaccine Management System, is a secure, cloud-based vaccine management solution specifically for COVID-19 vaccine that provides an end-to-end solution for provider enrollment, COVID-19 vaccination administration and CDC reporting. NCDHHS is working towards NC Immunization Registry (NCIR) integration to have one consolidated vaccine record in the state.

What about payment? The vaccine, along with ancillary supplies, are provided by the federal government at no cost to enrolled COVID-19 vaccine providers. Providers should bill third party payers whenever possible, including commercial insurance, Medicare or Medicaid, for the administration fee as appropriate. HRSA will reimburse providers for COVID-19 vaccines administered to uninsured individuals (<https://www.hrsa.gov/CovidUninsuredClaim>). Please reference the [COVID-19 Vaccination Coding and Billing Resources](#) for more information.

What do I need for storage? It is important that vaccine doses can be stored safely. Approved storage units and digital data logger thermometers are required to ensure that vaccines are stored properly. Please see the [CDC Storage & Handling Toolkit](#) for additional information.

How do I get trained? We have plenty of training resources for you! Start with a previously-recorded or live version of our Provider Enrollment trainings, found [here](#). Also check out our [Provider Enrollment Roadmap](#) for everything you need to know about CVMS.