



July 2025 DOH 348-1118

# **COVID-19 Vaccine Insurance Coverage**

## A guide for health care providers and health system partners

### Overview

The Washington State Department of Health continues to recommend that everyone 6 months and older, including pregnant people, receive the current COVID-19 vaccine to protect against severe illness. This recommendation is informed by the <u>Washington State Vaccine Advisory Committee (VAC)</u>, which advises the Department on appropriate strategies to control vaccine-preventable diseases in Washington State.

We continue to monitor federal updates on COVID-19 vaccine recommendations and assess how any changes may impact the health and safety of Washington residents.

We remain committed to science-based vaccine policy and to ensuring vaccines remain accessible and equitable for everyone in Washington. We will promptly share any updates with the public and our partners.

Access the COVID-19 Vaccine Information for Health Care Providers webpage for more details.

## Coverage

Washington Apple Health (Medicaid) continues to cover the COVID-19 vaccine for members, including children and pregnant individuals, in line with WA DOH recommendations.

While the Office of the Insurance Commissioner cannot require all health plans to cover COVID-19 vaccines for everyone, many health plans are still expected to provide coverage. To confirm whether a vaccine is covered, patients should contact their health plan administrator or the <a href="Office of the Insurance Commissioner">Office of the Insurance Commissioner</a>.

## **Billing Summary**

Contact insurers directly for instructions and amounts. Each carrier will have specific guidance for billing and coverage.

#### **Private Insurance**

• Bill according to your contract with the health insurer or health plan.

#### Apple Health For Service (Medicaid)

The COVID-19 vaccine policy is located in the Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) and the Physician-related/professional services <u>billing guides</u>.

- Vaccine counseling is covered for both children and adult clients.
- Providers who counsel clients about COVID-19 vaccine information may bill in the following ways (review CPT® guidelines for code guidance):
  - If the provider is already seeing the client for a prescheduled visit, and COVID-19 vaccine counseling increases the visit's complexity or duration, the provider may account for this by selecting the appropriate evaluation and management (E/M) level.
  - The provider may bill CPT® code 99401 with modifier 25 in addition to billing an E/M visit. In this case, the E/M visit should not include the time spent on COVID-19 counseling.
  - The provider may bill CPT® code 99401 individually if no E/M visit occurred and COVID-19 vaccine counseling was provided.

Share feedback or questions with Ol@doh.wa.gov.



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