

A Guide on Paying for Your Vaccines

Paying for Your Children's Vaccines

All children have access to vaccines. If eligible, Native Hawaiian Health Centers and Indian Health Service (IHS) provide disease prevention services. While CDC's recommended vaccines and COVID-19 vaccine given by a Vaccines For Children (VFC) program provider at Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) or Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) are free, your doctor may charge other costs for the visit.¹ CDC's routinely recommended childhood vaccines should be free.*

*Flu and other vaccines are required to be covered by your health insurance without charging a copayment or coinsurance.² If you cannot pay the administrative fee for VFC vaccines, you can say that you are unable to pay and you will not be charged.

Paying for Adult Vaccines

- **Private Health Insurance**
 - By law, recommended vaccines must be covered by your insurance company at no cost to you. Contact your insurance company to ask where your vaccines are covered at no cost – either at a doctor's office or at a specific pharmacy.
- **Medicaid**
 - Most state Medicaid plans cover at least some adult vaccinations, but some may not offer all CDC-recommended vaccines for free.
 - Contact your state Medicaid agency to find out whether the vaccine(s) you need will be free and whether you might have to also pay a copay, coinsurance, or vaccine administration fee (i.e., fee for each shot given). Also ask them if the vaccines must be given by a certain doctor, pharmacist, or other healthcare provider to be covered.
- **Medicare**
 - Medicare covers flu and pneumococcal vaccines at no cost under Part B (medical insurance).
 - Medicare Part D plans cover at little to no cost to patients. Call your Part D plan provider for more information.
- **No Health Insurance**
 - You will most likely have to pay the full cost of the vaccines and any related fees, such as an office copay, coinsurance, and/or a vaccine administration fee (i.e., fee to give each shot) at a doctor's office, health clinic, or pharmacy.

What if I Can't Afford the Vaccines?

- If you can't afford the vaccines you need, you can contact your state or local health department and ask if they know of any state programs that offer free or lower cost adult vaccinations. You may also contact a FQHC, RHC, Indian Health Services Center, or Native Hawaiian Health Centers in your area to see if they offer vaccines at a lower cost, or call CDC at 1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636). Clinics may require you to register as a patient in order to give you vaccines.

For more information visit

www.aa-nhpihealthresponse.org/ and www.vaccinateyourfamily.org/questions-about-vaccines/

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¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/vis-statements/flu.html>

² <https://www.hhs.gov/answers/affordable-care-act/will-the-aca-cover-my-flu-shot/index.html>

A Guide to Flu Vaccination

What is Influenza?

Influenza, commonly known as “flu,” is a contagious disease that usually spreads around October through May in the United States. Anyone can get the flu, but it is more dangerous for vulnerable populations such as infants and young children, people 65 years of age and older, pregnant women, and people with certain health conditions or a weakened immune system.

Why Vaccinate?

Each year thousands of people in the United States die from flu, and many more are hospitalized. Flu vaccine prevents millions of illnesses and flu-related visits to the doctor each year.

Who Should Be Vaccinated?

Everyone should get the flu vaccine. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends everyone 6 months of age and older get vaccinated every flu season.

Can I Take Other Vaccines with the COVID-19 Vaccine?

- COVID-19 vaccines and other vaccines may now be administered without regard to timing. This includes simultaneous administration of COVID-19 vaccine and other vaccines on the same day or within 14 days.³

Can I Get the Flu from the Flu Vaccine?

- No, flu vaccines cannot give you the flu illness.

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³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2021, July 16). *Interim clinical considerations for use of covid-19 vaccines*. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/covid-19-vaccines-us.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fvaccines%2F%2Finfo-by-product%2Fclinical-considerations.html#Coadministration.