An important message regarding Humana’s COVID-19 response: COVID-19 VACCINE FAQs 12/29/2021

As more developments are made on the COVID-19 vaccines, please check this page regularly for new information. In the event that individual states are facing unique challenges, refer to the latest information on Humana’s State-level COVID-19 Response.

**ALERT:**

- On December 16, 2021, the CDC updated their COVID-19 vaccine recommendation expressing a clinical preference for individuals to receive the mRNA COVID-19 vaccines (Pfizer and Moderna) over the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine. To learn more about this updated recommendation, see the CDC’s entire statement [here](https://www.cdc.gov).  
- The CDC now recommends that children between the ages of 5 and 11 years receive the Pfizer-BioNTech pediatric COVID-19 Vaccine. Learn more here about COVID-19 vaccines for children and teens.  
- COVID-19 vaccine booster shots are now available for everyone ages 16 years and older. To determine eligibility, check the [CDC’s web page on COVID-19 boosters](https://www.cdc.gov) for the latest information.

**Source (1):** CDC

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1. **What vaccines are available for COVID-19?**

There are currently three FDA authorized COVID-19 vaccines.

1. The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine (also known as Comirnaty) is the first COVID-19 vaccine to receive full FDA approval for individuals 16 years of age and older. The vaccine is also available under emergency use authorization (EUA) for individuals 5 through 15 years of age.
2. The Moderna vaccine is available under EUA for ages 18 and over.
3. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine is available under EUA for ages 18 and over.

It is important to note that the CDC has updated their COVID-19 vaccine recommendation expressing a clinical preference for individuals to receive the mRNA COVID-19 vaccines (Pfizer and Moderna) over the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine. To learn more about this updated recommendation, see the CDC's entire statement [here](#).

2. **Who is eligible to get the vaccine?**

According to the CDC, COVID-19 vaccination is recommended for all people aged 5 years and older, including people who are pregnant, breastfeeding, trying to get pregnant now, or might become pregnant in the future. People 18 years and older can get any of the available vaccines. The Pfizer vaccine is currently the only COVID-19 vaccine available for those aged 5 through 17.

3. **How is it administered? How many doses will a patient need?**

The COVID-19 vaccines will be delivered via injection. Some will require 2 doses to maximize their effectiveness.

The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine requires 2 shots administered about 21 days apart. The Moderna vaccine requires 2 shots administered about 28 days apart. It is critical that patients schedule and receive the second dose in order to receive the most protection possible.

The Johnson & Johnson vaccine requires just 1 shot.

4. **Are booster shots available?**

Yes. The CDC notes everyone ages 16 and older can get a booster shot as follows:

- Teens age 16 and 17 can get a Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine booster at least 6 months after completing the primary vaccination series.
- Those age 18 and older **should** get a COVID-19 vaccine booster at least 6 months after completing the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna primary series, or at least 2 months after receiving the single dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

It is important to note that the CDC has updated their COVID-19 vaccine recommendation expressing a clinical preference for individuals to receive the mRNA COVID-19 vaccines (Pfizer and Moderna) over the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine. To learn more about this updated recommendation, see the CDC's entire statement [here](#).

Eligible individuals may receive any of the authorized vaccines as a booster dose, regardless of which vaccine was originally administered as a primary dose or series. As eligibility for booster shots continues to evolve, check the [CDC’s webpage on COVID-19 boosters](#) for the latest information.

5. **Will the vaccines require pre-authorization?**

No.
6. Will Humana members receive the vaccine with no out-of-pocket costs?

Yes, for Humana members, all FDA-approved COVID-19 vaccines will be covered at no additional cost during the public health emergency. Coverage applies no matter where the Humana patient gets the vaccine -- including at both in-network and out-of-network providers. It also covers instances in which two initial vaccine doses are required, as well as booster shots that are recommended according to CDC guidelines. Claims for COVID-19 vaccine administration should be submitted as outlined below, based on the member’s benefit plan.

Please refer to Humana’s COVID-19 Vaccine claims payment policy for further information.

7. How is Humana handling claims for the vaccines?

The federal government is coordinating with the states to supply all vaccine products to providers. It is not necessary for a provider to submit a vaccine product code for a state-supplied vaccine. Humana will not reimburse for a state-supplied vaccine product, however, the administration of a state-supplied vaccine is reimbursable. Administration claims should be submitted to Humana using the administration codes listed below. Cost share for the administration of the vaccine will be waived.

For Medicare Advantage (MA) members, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services determined that coverage for COVID-19 vaccines administered to MA plan members during 2020 and 2021 would be provided through the Original Medicare program. This includes charges for the vaccine and its administration. All claims for administering the COVID-19 vaccine to Humana MA members during 2020 and 2021 should be submitted to the Medicare Administrative Contractors. Humana will deny any vaccine product or administration claims received for MA members for dates of service in 2020 and 2021. Claims for administering the COVID-19 vaccine to Humana MA members for dates of service beginning January 1, 2022, should be submitted to Humana.

Please refer to Humana’s COVID-19 Vaccine claims payment policy for further information.

8. What if the patient does not have their Original Medicare card or does not know their Medicare Beneficiary Identification (MBI) number?

If your patients do not have their Original Medicare card or do not know their MBI number, use the MBI look-up tool in your MAC’s secure portal (PDF) -- you must have your patient’s first name, last name, date of birth, and social security number. Even if your patients are enrolled in Medicare Advantage Plans, you can look up their MBIs.

9. What codes are reported for the COVID-19 vaccines?

Providers should report charges for the vaccine product and its administration according to the Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®) coding standards established by the American Medical Association (AMA). Providers should report the code appropriate for the manufacturer-specific vaccine and dose administered. The AMA has created the codes listed in the chart below for reporting the COVID-19 vaccine. See the AMA’s website for more information on COVID-19 vaccine coding. If the AMA creates more CPT codes for additional COVID-19 vaccines, we will update this FAQ.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Manufacturer</th>
<th>Vaccine product code</th>
<th>Administration code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pfizer</td>
<td>91300</td>
<td>First dose: 0001A</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Second dose: 0002A</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Third dose: 0003A</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Booster dose: 0004A</td>
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<td>Pfizer</td>
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<td>First dose: 0071A</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Description</td>
</tr>
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<td>---------</td>
<td>-------</td>
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<td>Moderna</td>
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<td>First dose: 0011A</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Second dose: 0012A</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Booster dose: 0034A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please refer to Humana’s COVID-19 Vaccine claims payment policy for further information.

10. Does Humana reimburse an additional amount for administering the COVID-19 vaccine in a patient’s home?

Humana will allow additional reimbursement for administering the COVID-19 vaccine in a patient’s home, when all conditions established by CMS for this add-on payment are satisfied. The code used to report at-home administration of the COVID-19 vaccine is HCPCS code M0201. When applicable, providers may report HCPCS code M0201 in addition to the appropriate codes for the manufacturer-specific vaccine and dose administered. Please refer to Humana’s COVID-19 Vaccine claims payment policy for further information.

As noted above, for Medicare Advantage (MA) members, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) determined that coverage for COVID-19 vaccines administered to MA plan members during 2020 and 2021 would be provided through the Original Medicare program. Please refer to CMS guidance on Medicare Payment for COVID-19 Vaccination Administration in the Home and send any applicable claims to the Medicare Administrative Contractors for administering the COVID-19 vaccine to Humana MA members during 2020 and 2021.

Medicaid plans will continue to follow state requirements for COVID-19 vaccines.

11. How do I bill for vaccine products that are state-supplied?

Providers should only bill the administration code when submitting a claim for a state-supplied COVID-19 vaccine. However, Humana recognizes that some billing systems require a charge for a vaccine product code to be reported. In such circumstances, Humana recommends the provider to report a charge amount of $0.01. In addition, Humana does not require a modifier SL, but will allow the use of modifier SL to identify state-supplied vaccine product codes.

12. How can I become a COVID-19 vaccinator?


13. Are the COVID-19 vaccines safe and effective?

Yes. Per FDA regulations, vaccines have passed rigorous safety and efficacy trials. According to the CDC, “Clinical trials of all vaccines must first show they are safe and effective before any vaccine can be authorized or approved for use, including COVID-19 vaccines.”

Safety: According to the CDC, “Millions of people in the United States have received COVID-19 vaccines under the most intense safety monitoring in U.S. history.” Learn how federal partners are working together to ensure the safety of COVID-19 vaccines.

With regard to the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine, the CDC and FDA recommend “women younger than 50 years old especially should be aware of the rare risk of blood clots with low platelets after vaccination, and that other COVID-19 vaccines are available where this risk has not been seen”. If you received a Johnson & Johnson vaccine, here is what you need to know.
Additionally, the FDA has issued a news release and updated the label on the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine warning of an increased risk of Guillain-Barré Syndrome, a rare neurological disorder, during the 42 days following vaccination. However, the FDA’s release states the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine “continues to find the known and potential benefits clearly outweigh the known and potential risks”.

**Efficacy:** The CDC states that, “All COVID-19 vaccines currently available in the United States have been shown to be highly effective at preventing COVID-19.” [Learn more about the different COVID-19 vaccines](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html).

Read more from the CDC about the benefits of getting the COVID-19 vaccine.

14. Are there any side effects?

To see the latest from the CDC on what to expect after getting a COVID-19 vaccine, visit [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/expect/after.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/expect/after.html).

15. What guidance can I provide if a patient is concerned in becoming a victim of a COVID-19 vaccine fraud scheme?

A warning from the FBI in December 2020, provides information on potential indicators of COVID-19 vaccine-related fraud, and tips on how to avoid it. View the FBI’s warning here. It is important to remind patients to confirm the vaccinator is a safe and reputable source to avoid becoming a victim of fraud.

If you are concerned your patient is a victim of a scam or attempted fraud involving COVID-19, you can guide them to:

1. Contact the member services number on the back of their Humana member ID card for help
2. File a complaint with the [National Center for Disaster Fraud, opens new window](https://www.disasterfraud.gov/) or call their hotline at 866-720-5721
3. Report it to the FBI’s [Internet Crime Complaint Center](https://www.ic3.gov/)
4. Contact your local FBI field office or submit a tip online at [tips.fbi.gov](https://www.tips.fbi.gov/)

For the latest information about COVID-19 vaccines, [visit the CDC’s website](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html). For additional resources, please visit the [CMS COVID-19 vaccine policies and guidance website](https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Prescription-Drug-Coverage/Prescription-Drug-Coverage/).