

## COVID-19 VACCINE COVERAGE AND FAQ

January 5, 2021

Overview: Currently the USFDA has approved two vaccines for distribution, one manufactured by Pfizer, the other by Moderna. Both are a two-shot series, and each state is receiving an allotment as determined by the federal government based on a schedule shared with the state.

### **Who can get the COVID-19 vaccine?**

The CDC's recommendation is to cover the COVID-19 vaccine in phases, with healthcare personnel and residents of long-term care facilities in phase 1a, with frontline essential workers, people aged 75 years or older and people aged 65-74, 16-64 years with underlying medical conditions, other essential workers receiving vaccines in phases 1b and 1c, respectively. For more information on who can get the COVID-19 vaccine visit

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations.html>

### **How will the COVID-19 vaccine series be covered?**

People with the following types of coverage will be eligible to get the COVID-19 vaccine: Original Medicare, a Medicare Advantage Plan, a Medicare health plan, Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Basic Health Program (BHP), and private health plans. People who only have coverage through limited benefit packages for Medicaid may not be covered.

### **What is the cost of the COVID-19 vaccine series and how is it paid for?**

The COVID-19 vaccine will be available to everyone for free, regardless of coverage status. Individuals will not pay coinsurance, deductibles, or copayments. The vaccine will be federally purchased - funding through the CARES Act will pay for the vaccine.

For Medicare beneficiaries, billing for the vaccine will occur through the Part B benefit. How that service and drug are billed is dictated by the federal government and, for those on original Medicare, this will be handled by you provider. **The COVID-19 vaccine series will NOT be paid for under Part D, the Medicare prescription drug benefit, regardless of where it is administered (either at a physician's office or through a pharmacy).**

For more information from CMS regarding Medicare's COVID-19 coverage, including testing and vaccines, please visit <https://www.medicare.gov/coverage/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-vaccine>

### **How can I get an early refill of my medication to ensure I have enough on hand if I am quarantined?**

We have added the ability to get an early refill of your medication, so that you can have enough on hand, in case you are quarantined. However, certain drug swill not be available for early refills, such as some controlled substances, opioids and certain specialty drugs that have a limited shelf life and would expire before they could be used. If you take a drug that has a quantity limit but feel you may run out of medication, learn more about your options to request

an exception on our website at <https://www.teamstarpartd.com/ExceptionsAndAppeals.aspx> or contact MedImpact at 1 (877) 391-1099 to learn more about your options to request an exception.

**How can I get an extended days supply of my medication to ensure I have enough on hand if I am quarantined?**

For eligible medications you may obtain a 90-day supply of our medication through our mail service program or at network Choice 90 retail pharmacies. To learn more about our mail service program or locate a retail pharmacy that can fill a 90-day supply, check our pharmacy locator on our website [here](#) or call MedImpact at 1 (877) 391-1099.

Normal shipping for medication provided through the mail service program is free, however expedited shipping has a fee of \$25.00. During this time and in accordance with the federal government's emphasis on minimizing face-to-face contact, prescriptions delivered or dispensed to you will not require your signature.

Choice 90 retail pharmacies, which offer a 90-day supply of medications, can be identified by calling customer service at 1-866-412-7445 (TTY/TDD: 711) or by looking at the online pharmacy directory. In the online pharmacy directory, enter your zip code, and then select "Choice 90" under "pharmacy type."

**If I get sick or am quarantined and miss a premium payment, will I be disenrolled from the plan?**

Our plan normally provides a 90-day grace period before we cancel coverage and disenroll you for non-payment.

Keep you, your family, and your community well by staying informed. To learn more about what Medicare is doing to support beneficiaries during this time, visit [www.medicare.gov/medicare-coronavirus](http://www.medicare.gov/medicare-coronavirus)