



Changes to Alberta's COVID-19 vaccine program that affect your Alberta Blue Cross[®] group plan

Date: August 20, 2025

Earlier this year, the Government of Alberta announced changes to how COVID-19 vaccines will be offered this fall.

At this time, starting this fall, COVID-19 vaccines will be available only through public health clinics, not community pharmacies.

They will remain free for select high-risk groups but will now be available on a paid basis for all other Albertans.

Program phases

The new COVID-19 vaccine program will be implemented in four phases:

PHASE 1

Provincially funded COVID-19 vaccines will be free to health-care workers, residents of seniors' supportive living accommodations and home care clients

PHASE 2

Provincially funded COVID-19 vaccines will be free for:

- Those six months and older with underlying medical conditions or compromised immune systems or living in congregate accommodations
- Albertans on social programs (AISH, income supports and individuals experiencing homelessness)

PHASE 3

COVID-19 vaccines will be available at full cost to all Albertans 65 years and older

PHASE 4

COVID-19 vaccines will be available at full cost to all other Albertans

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Pre-ordering now open

The Government of Alberta has procured 485,000 vaccine doses. Eligible Albertans can indicate their intent to receive the COVID-19 vaccine by pre-ordering through the **Alberta Vaccine Booking System**.

In October 2025, individuals who have pre-ordered a vaccine dose will receive a reminder by text message or email to book their immunization appointment for the 2025-26 fall/winter season, with an option to pre-order for the 2026-27 season.

Alberta Blue Cross group plan coverage

We have informed the Alberta Government about receipt requirements for reimbursement eligibility on our private plans. If public health clinic receipts are issued with these requirements, many of our standard benefit plans provide vaccine coverage ranging from \$250 to \$1,000 per participant each benefit year. Please refer to your specific benefit plan or reach out to your Alberta Blue Cross representative for more details. Once additional information regarding public health clinic receipts becomes available, we will keep you informed regarding eligibility on employer group plans.

Questions?

More information on COVID-19 vaccines is available in the **Canadian Immunization Guide**.



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