

COVID-19 vaccine updates for Albertans

Date: September 10, 2025

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

At this time, we're sharing that 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 be available to all other Albertans at \$100 per dose in October.

Below we have included more information on the Government of Alberta's phased plan and Alberta Blue Cross's* coverage.

Vaccination phases and eligibility

The new COVID-19 vaccine program will be implemented in 2 phases starting October 2025:

PHASE 1

HIGHEST RISK GROUPS Appointments begin October 1, 2025

The vaccine is available at **no cost** through public health clinics for:

- · Health care workers
- · All residents of continuing care homes and seniors supportive living accommodations
- · Home care clients
- Individuals experiencing houselessness
- · Individuals aged 65 and older receiving the Alberta Seniors Benefit
- Individuals aged 6 months and older with underlying medical conditions or compromised immune systems

You *may* qualify for free vaccine coverage if you have an eligible medical condition. Some conditions include diabetes, depression, certain heart conditions, obesity, pregnancy and more.

You should check if you qualify-and save money on coverage

Eligible underlying medical conditions:

- · Cerebrovascular disease
- · Chronic liver diseases
- Chronic lung diseases
- · Chronic kidney diseases
- · Cystic fibrosis
- Diabetes mellitus, type 1 and type 2
- Disabilities (for example: Down syndrome, learning, intellectual or development disabilities, ADHD, cerebral palsy, congenital disabilities, spinal cord injuries)
- Heart conditions (for example: Cardiomyopathies, coronary artery disease, heart failure, etc.)
- Mental health disorders (limited to: Mood disorders, including depression, schizophrenia, spectrum disorders)
- Obesity
- Pregnancy
- Tuberculosis

Eligible immunocompromising conditions

- Cancer (currently receiving treatment)
- · HIV infection
- Primary immunodeficiency diseases
- · Solid organ or blood stem cell transplant
- Use of corticosteroids, other immunosuppressive medication or CAR T-cell therapy

PHASE 2

ALL ALBERTANS AGED 6 MONTHS AND OLDER Appointments expected to begin on October 20, 2025

The vaccine is available to all other Albertans 6 months and older for \$100 per dose through public health clinics.

How to get your vaccine

Pre-order by September 30 (optional)

Albertans can pre-order their COVID-19 vaccines through the Alberta Vaccine Booking System.

Pre-ordering does not confirm eligibility nor appointment time. If you miss the pre-order deadline, you can still book a COVID-19 vaccine appointment once vaccines become available in October.

Coverage through Alberta Blue Cross

Some benefit plans may have coverage for vaccines, but the coverage amount will vary.

How to check if you have coverage

Starting mid-September, you can check your drug coverage to see if vaccines are covered, and how much coverage you have left before getting the vaccine.

Here's how to do that:

- · Sign in to your account
- · Go to Benefits
- · Go to the drug section and use the look-up tool to check your eligibility
- · Enter the following drug names:
 - o Spikevax (provided by Moderna)
 - o Comirnaty (provided by Pfizer)

Reimbursement for the COVID-19 vaccine

We have consulted with the Alberta government and can confirm that receipts that will be issued by Alberta Health Services will meet our receipt requirements.

- You will receive an invoice in the mail after your public health vaccine appointment.
- · After you have paid the invoice, you can request a receipt from Alberta Health Services

Phone numbers:

• Toll free: 1-855-919-6097

• Edmonton: 780-946-8951

Press 3 to reach billing. Your receipt will be mailed out to you.

Submit this receipt as a drug claim in your member account.

Learn how to submit a claim.

Important

Do not submit an invoice. We require a receipt that includes the details below.

What the receipt must include

For coverage eligibility, the receipt must include all of the following information:

- First and last name of the person receiving the vaccination
- · Date of service
- Description of the service or Drug Identification Number (DIN)
- Quantity
- · Name of the public health clinic
- · Amount charged, which has been marked as paid in full (zero balance owing)

If any of this information isn't included, it will result in requests for more information and delay your claim.

Frequently asked questions

Can I get my vaccine at a pharmacy?

At this time, the Alberta government will be providing these only through public health clinics across Alberta. Select pharmacists will provide immunizations at continuing care and assisted living facilities.

How can I know if my medical conditions qualifies for free coverage?

There are many common conditions that qualify for free coverage. You can <u>check the list of eligible</u> <u>conditions</u> on the Alberta government website. Select **Fall 2025-2026 COVID-19 immunization program.**

I received an invoice after my vaccination. Can I submit it for reimbursement?

No, Alberta Blue Cross cannot provide reimbursement until you've paid your invoice and requested a receipt showing that you've paid in full. You can submit your receipt as a drug claim.

Important links

- Alberta government COVID-19 updates page
 Official COVID-19 information and vaccine updates for Albertans
- · Pre-order the vaccine

Access to the booking system through the Alberta government COVID-19 updates page

Questions?

For more information on COVID-19 vaccines, you can visit the **Canadian Immunization Guide**.



