



Date: January 3, 2025

To: Coordinated care organizations (CCOs)

From: David Inbody, CCO Operations director

Subject: Updates about COVID and flu vaccines for CCO members under age 19

This communication is in follow up to the pharmacy notice shared with CCOs on December 31, 2024, about coverage of COVID and flu vaccines for individuals under age 19. The notice explained that effective January 1, 2025, pharmacies not enrolled in the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program can be paid for COVID and flu vaccines administered to Oregon Health Plan (OHP) members under age 19.

This change is authorized by the [December 11, 2024](#), declaration issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services secretary. As a result of the declaration, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is requiring state Medicaid programs to pay for COVID and flu vaccines administered by non-VFC pharmacies to individuals under age 19. This authorization continues through December 31, 2029, unless withdrawn by future federal action. This authorization does not extend to other vaccinations.

This authorization applies to CCO members under age 19 covered by the CCO's [Medicaid](#) and [Non-Medicaid](#) Contracts. (It does not apply to members covered by the [OHP Bridge-Basic Health Program](#) Contract as that contract only covers members age 19 and over.)

What should you do?

Each CCO should:

- Widely distribute information about the availability of COVID and flu vaccines from non-VFC pharmacies. This includes notifying CCO members, staff, subcontractors, and providers, as appropriate.
- Ensure its claims processing system is configured to pay non-VFC pharmacies for COVID and flu vaccines.

Questions?

If you have general questions about this communication, please contact Cheryl Henning, CCO Contracts Administrator, at Cheryl.L.Henning@oha.oregon.gov.

Thank you for your continued support of OHP and the services you provide to our members.