
COVID-19 Vaccines: CDC Bridge Access Program for Uninsured Adults

Special Office Hours for LPHAs
September 19, 2023



OREGON IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM (OIP)

Public Health Division

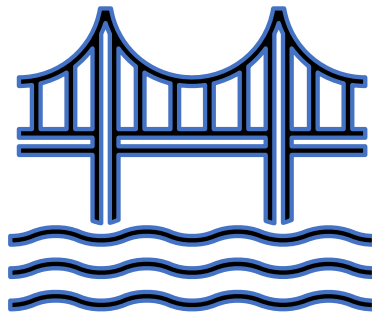
Purpose

The purpose of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Bridge Access Program (Bridge) for COVID-19 Vaccines is to ensure equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines for uninsured adults once they become commercially available.

CDC Bridge serves as a temporary bridge until December 31, 2024, to the proposed permanent and comprehensive Vaccines for Adults Program if approved by Congress.

CDC Bridge Objectives

- Leverage existing adult immunization program infrastructure.
- Coordinate with CDC Bridge partners, including LPHAs, FQHCs, pharmacies, community-based organizations (CBOs), and facilities serving Tribal communities.
- Develop and/or strengthen community partnerships to reach uninsured adult populations.



Where can someone get a vaccine?

At a local health provider

CDC will use **existing partnerships** with state and local health departments (LHDs) to quickly distribute COVID-19 vaccines through providers in their networks.



CDC will **manage the purchase and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines** for state and LHDs, along with providing oversight and technical assistance.

At a local health center

Federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) will partner with LHDs and state immunization programs to ensure access for the many uninsured adults already served by these providers.



HRSA will **provide funding and support** to its network of FQHCs to ensure outreach and vaccine delivery in the communities they serve.

At a nearby pharmacy location

CDC will work **with pharmacies** to ensure uninsured adults can continue to access free COVID-19 vaccinations and treatments at thousands of locations nationwide.



Pharmacy chains will use their extensive footprints and community partnerships to reach **adults who are uninsured and underserved.**

CDC Bridge Structure

What about COVID-19 Therapeutics/Treatments?

- Not part of the CDC Bridge
- Federal government is committed to keeping therapeutics available to the public
- CDC projects that there are plenty of therapeutics available for the remainder of this year and into 2024
- OHA is partnering with Color Health to provide free COVID-19 therapeutic/treatment telehealth services
 - Current contract ends on October 31, 2023

CDC Bridge Vaccines in Oregon

- OIP will receive 30,000 doses only through December 31, 2024
- Additional vaccines available through pharmacy component of CDC Bridge
- Date of vaccine availability is to be determined

CDC Bridge for Pharmacies – What We Know

- Participating through modifications to existing [Increasing Community Access to Testing Program](#) (ICAT) contracts and separate from state Immunization Program
- Participating pharmacies: CVS Pharmacy Inc., Walgreen Co., and eTrueNorth
 - eTrueNorth is a pharmacy aggregator that includes a smaller network of retail pharmacies
 - eTrueNorth has begun outreach to chain and independent pharmacies to encourage participation
 - Oregon Health Authority is collaborating with eTrueNorth to identify strategic pharmacy partners to address gaps

eTrueNorth

- Pharmacy aggregator that partners with independent and small retail chains to provide COVID-19 vaccines for uninsured and underinsured adults
- [Partnership flyer](#)

CDC Bridge Allocations

- CDC guidance:
 - Allocate 25% or more doses to FQHCs
 - Focus on areas where adults do not have easy access to CVS, Walgreens and some independent pharmacies, which are also able to provide vaccine at no cost to uninsured adults through CDC contracts.
- With a focus on health equity, OIP will first allocate doses to providers who serve Oregon's most vulnerable populations, including LPHAs, FQHCs, Tribal health centers, and the Department of Corrections for adults in custody.

Timeline

Activity	Date
OIP submits application to CDC for Bridge supplemental funding	July 17, 2023
Notice of Award	September 8, 2023
FDA decisions for Fall COVID-19 vaccines	CDC projection: mid-September
New vaccines authorized and bivalent vaccines de-authorized	September 11, 2023 (Moderna and Pfizer); Novavax currently authorized
CDC Bridge Funds distributed to LPHAs	Anticipated October 2023
CDC Bridge Funding Period Ends	December 31, 2024

CDC Bridge for FQHCs

- COVID-19 vaccines provided through OIP
- HRSA provides funding for uninsured adults
- LPHAs that are also FQHCs will receive FQHC funding from HRSA for their FQHC, and will also receive CDC Bridge funding from OIP through PE 43.
 - The two sources of funding must not be used for the same activities (example HRSA funds used for vaccine administration fees and PE 43 funds used for community events).

CDC Bridge for LPHAs

- COVID-19 vaccines provided by OIP
- Approx. \$1M to support LPHAs' CDC Bridge implementation and activities
- Required activities
 - OIP goal to minimize reporting burden by offering opportunities to discuss activities, success, challenges, gaps on existing calls
 - Reporting dose-level eligibility
- Encouraged activities will come out in LPHA guidance, such as:
 - Participate in the CDC's Partnering for Vaccine Equity Learning Community and promote opportunity with partners
 - Attend regional in-person meeting (Roadshow) with LPHAs and Tribal partners to support achievement of CDC Bridge objectives.

CDC Bridge Communication Resources

- Launching a communications campaign with digital and other advertisements beginning in October 2023. All [communication resources](#), such as flyers and social media posts, are downloadable and adaptable should partners want to disseminate them directly through your websites, offices, and social media channels. They are available in English and Spanish.
- Sharing a [communication toolkit for partners](#) to expand access to no-cost COVID-19 vaccines and promote the Bridge Access Program. The toolkit includes [frequently asked questions](#) and [communication resources](#).

Use of Funds

- Local decision making
- Must align with CDC rules
- Outreach, education, vaccinators, and more
- Efforts to increase COVID-19 vaccination rates for uninsured adults, with a focus on populations experiencing vaccine inequities due to race, ethnicity, and other social determinants of health
- LPHAs are expected to use vaccines made available under this program exclusively for vaccinating uninsured adults

***NOTE:** If LPHA wants to receive administration fees for their work, they must use CDC Bridge funds. Uninsured client cannot be billed for vaccine administration.

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Allowable (not a comprehensive list)

- Activities and personnel costs related to CDC Bridge implementation and providing COVID-19 vaccinations to adults who are uninsured within the LPHA's jurisdiction
- Vaccine administration fees
- Contracting or otherwise collaborating with community health workers, patient navigators, county jails, churches, immunization coalitions or other partners to support facilitation of required activities
- Clinical care for immunization services (e.g., vaccinators and other clinical care related to immunizations)
- Outreach and educational activities
- Community vaccination events

Non-Allowable (not a comprehensive list)

- Vaccines
- Clinical care NOT related to immunization services
- Purchase of food/meals
- Construction/renovation
- Vehicle purchases
- Goods and services for personal use
- Promotional and/or Incentive Materials (e.g., plaques, food boxes, clothing, and commemorative items such as pens, gift cards, mugs/cups, folders/folios, lanyards, magnets, conference bags)

How will uninsured adults know where to go?

- Vaccines.gov
 - OIP staff will populate vaccines.gov
 - CDC to index with CDC Bridge pharmacy opportunity
- 211info
 - Provides information to public

How to Stay Informed

- Attend OIP's Monday Office Hours
- Watch for OIP Partner Updates distributed via the listserv
- Visit Oregon Health Authority's (OHA's) COVID-19 Updates webpage
- Read OHA's COVID-19 blog
- Additional special LPHA session for CDC's Bridge on Oct. 3

Reporting Requirements

- To report activities to reach uninsured adults in the LPHAs' respective jurisdictions, LPHAs are required to provide a brief after-action description of CDC Bridge efforts, challenges and successes.
- LPHAs are required to attend at least one regularly scheduled OIP meeting such as Office Hours. Office Hours events will be announced through the OIP Partners Listserv before the end of September 2023.

What to Report

LPHAs are encouraged to share the following types of general information in the after-action report, as well as during Office Hours:

- Successes and challenges of activities supporting community engagement, education, and vaccine promotion
- Partnership organizations (funded and unfunded) supporting community outreach and/or education activities and identify whether the organization represents a new or existing partnership.
- Strategies to identify and close vaccine equity gaps.
- Barriers encountered while implementing CDC Bridge activities.
- Efforts the LPHA and its partners have made to eliminate vaccine access barriers
- Innovative approaches to reaching uninsured adult population
- Impact, and lessons learned while attempting to reach uninsured adult populations.

Partnering for Vaccine Equity



- In 2020, CDC launched the Partnering for Vaccine Equity (P4VE) program focused on increasing equity in adult immunization.
- The program aims to increase vaccine equity, currently among adults belonging to racial and ethnic communities, by partnering with national, state, local, and community organizations who are working on the ground to increase vaccine confidence and access in their communities.
- ⑩ Resource hub provides free and accurate educational materials to support COVID-19 and flu vaccination in your community.
- ⑩ Partner network...more to come next time

Resources & Links

- [CDC Bridge: Guidance for LPHAs](#)
- [Partnering for Vaccine Equity](#)
 - [*Partnering for Vaccine Equity's* Vaccine Resource Hub](#)
- [CDC Bridge](#)
- [Color Health Treatment](#)
- [OIP Funding Opportunity for Vaccine Storage Equipment](#)
- [OHA COVID-19 Updates](#)
- OIP Office Hours for all members of the health care community, weekly on Monday from 12 – 1 p.m. [OIP Office Hours Registration](#)
- Provider Help Desk – vfc.help@odhsoha.state.or.us