

Immunization Coverage

Supporting access to immunizations for children, adolescents and adults is essential to preserving the progress we've made against vaccine-preventable conditions and strengthening our ability to address emerging health threats.

Every year, more than 50,000 adults die from vaccine-preventable diseases and thousands more suffer serious health problems. Older adults and people with chronic illness are at greater risk of complications and death. **The Adult Vaccine Access Coalition (AVAC) urges Congress to protect coverage of cost-effective and lifesaving vaccines.**



The Immunization Coverage Landscape

Today, 9 out of 10 Americans have access to recommended vaccines. Private insurance, the U.S. Military, Medicare and Medicaid all provide immunization coverage with no cost to individuals. Many of these programs tie coverage to recommendations made by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and/or those made by the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).



PRIVATE INSURANCE

Most private insurance and employer-sponsored health plans provide coverage of pediatric, adolescent and adult vaccines which are recommended by ACIP or the Director of the CDC, with no cost.



MEDICARE PART B

Four vaccines, Influenza, Pneumonia, Hepatitis B and COVID-19, are specifically authorized for coverage at no cost.



MEDICARE PART D

Adults with Medicare Part D benefit from coverage of ACIP-recommended vaccines with no cost sharing, including Shingles, Tetanus-Diphtheria-Whooping Cough, RSV and future recommended vaccines.



MEDICAID

All adults on Medicaid (traditional populations and expansion states) are offered coverage of ACIP-recommended vaccines with no cost sharing.



UNINSURED ADULTS

A limited number of ACIP-recommended adult vaccines are available under some state public health programs funded by the CDC 317-immunization grant program. States choose which, and how much of any given vaccine may be available.

TYPE	AGE	WHAT VACCINES ARE COVERED
Private Insurance	0-64 years old	All routine ACIP-recommended vaccines
Medicare Part B	65+	Influenza, Pneumonia, Hepatitis B and COVID-19 vaccines
Medicare Part D	65+	ACIP-recommended adult vaccines not otherwise covered under Medicare Part B
Medicaid VFC	0-18 years old	All ACIP-recommended vaccines through the federal Vaccines for Children Program (VFC)
Medicaid Adults	19-64 years old	All ACIP-recommended vaccines (traditional and expansion)
Uninsured	0-18 years old	All ACIP-recommended vaccines through the federal Vaccines for Children Program (VFC)
Uninsured Adults	19-64 years old	Limited availability of ACIP-recommended vaccines through state or local Immunization programs

Vaccines Must Be Readily Available for Everyone Who Chooses to Get One

Coverage for immunization is critical to our nation's health and economic security. Gaps in vaccine rates leave our nation vulnerable to a resurgence of preventable disease outbreaks, such as the flu, measles, and pertussis, which can be devastating.

Recommended vaccines should remain widely available at no extra cost to consumers. While systems for adult immunization coverage have been strengthened, barriers to vaccine access still exist. Providers across the health care system continue to face burdens when it comes to purchasing, storing, administering and billing for vaccines across different types of health insurance programs for people needing specific vaccines that are recommended by their provider (e.g. travel, occupational). Insufficient data on immunization coverage gaps also hinder efforts to improve access to rural and medically underserved populations.

Improving access to and utilization of adult immunizations must remain a top priority. As Congress considers changes to health care programs, it will be essential to ensure Americans have continued access to no-cost vaccinations.



About AVAC

AVAC consists of over 80 organizational leaders in health and public health who are committed to addressing challenges in access to adult immunization and to raising awareness of the importance of adult immunization. Our mission is informed by scientific and empirical evidence of the benefits of immunization through improving health, protecting against a variety of debilitating and deadly conditions, and saving costs to the health care system and society.

www.adultvaccinesnow.org