



**COLORADO**  
Department of Health Care  
Policy & Financing

Dear Provider,

In accordance with updated guidance and funding from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), effective March 15, 2021, the Department of Health Care Policy & Financing (the Department) is reimbursing physicians, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), hospitals, pharmacies and other Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid Program) enrolled, qualified immunizers \$41.18 to administer **each dose** of a COVID-19 vaccine.

All COVID-19 vaccine claims will be reimbursed at \$41.18 for each dose for enrolled and qualified providers for administration of COVID-19 vaccines approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) under their Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) authority. Pharmacists enrolled with Health First Colorado may submit claims for reimbursement of the administration of COVID-19 vaccines to Health First Colorado members. Providers will receive vaccine products from the federal government at no cost. Only the administration fee associated with the vaccines may be reimbursed to providers. These updated rates can be found on the Department's [Provider Rates & Fee Schedule web page](#) under the "[Immunization Rate Schedule](#)" section. Additional information for providers can be found on the [COVID-19 Information for Health First Colorado and CHP+ Providers and Case Managers web page](#). In order to offer the vaccine to members, providers will first need to [enroll in the State's vaccine program](#).

Providers are encouraged to collect insurance information and submit claims. No co-pays are required nor may be collected. No one may be denied vaccination if they do not have insurance. Providers may not ask for a government-issued identification card as a condition to receiving the vaccine, as requiring an identification card, particularly one issued by the government, can exacerbate distrust and accessibility inequities for many critical groups.

We appreciate your assistance and engagement in helping us increase the Health First Colorado vaccine uptake rate. Your patients – even those who are hesitant to get vaccinated - trust information coming from you. Find more information on how to answer patient questions on the [Vaccine FAQ web page](#). If a member requires additional support to get the vaccine, please have them contact their medical home or contact their assigned [Regional Accountability Entity \(RAE\)](#).

Encourage your staff to get their vaccines and refer them to the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment for information on [vaccine safety](#). Look up information on where staff may be vaccinated on the [Vaccine web page](#).

### **CMS Shared Vaccine Hesitancy Resources**

Recently, CMS shared resources for healthcare personnel managing vaccine hesitancy. Medical centers, pharmacies and clinicians can use or adapt these ready-made materials to build confidence about COVID-19 vaccination among healthcare teams and other staff.

- [How to Build Confidence in COVID-19 Vaccines: A Short Guide for Immunization Coordinators in Medical Centers and Clinics](#) - This informational guide presents six strategies for immunization coordinators to build vaccine confidence within their health system or clinics. It includes tangible actions to promote confidence, communication, and uptake of COVID-19 vaccine, which can help support confidence among providers and patients.
- [The COVID-19 Vaccine Confidence Conversation Starter](#) - This conversation starter is a prompt for engaging healthcare providers during an in-person or virtual

meeting in order to identify tailored approaches to promote vaccine confidence within a facility.

- **Slide presentations** and scripts are available to help health systems, clinics, and pharmacies educate healthcare personnel, teams and immunization coordinators about COVID-19 vaccination and build vaccine confidence within their organization: [Building Vaccine Confidence in Health Systems and Clinics: Tips for Immunization/Vaccine Coordinators](#) and [Building Confidence in COVID-19 Vaccines Among your Patients: Tips for the Healthcare Team](#).

CMS maintains a [COVID-19 Provider Toolkit](#) to ensure health care providers have the necessary tools to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency. CMS recently added up-to-date payment [allowances for COVID-19 vaccine administration](#), including the new Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) vaccine.

### **New Funding Opportunity Aims to Support Equitable Vaccine Access in Colorado**

Eight Colorado foundations have come together to fund on-the-ground efforts to connect Coloradans who live daily without access to critical services and opportunities due to race and/or their socioeconomic status with access to COVID-19 vaccines and information.

"Together We Protect" - Colorado's COVID-19 Vaccine Equity Fund, will support Colorado community-based organizations, working in partnership with state-contracted vaccine providers, to provide culturally relevant and localized outreach, information and support to ensure communities who face systemic barriers have access to the COVID-19 vaccine. Grants ranging from \$10,000 - \$100,000 will be awarded to applicants from across Colorado.

"Together We Protect" is a partnership of [Immunize Colorado](#) and the [Colorado Vaccine Equity Taskforce](#), which will provide on-the-ground technical assistance and support to community-based organization grantees, and these Colorado foundations: [Caring for Colorado Foundation](#), [Colorado Health Foundation](#), [Community First Foundation](#), [Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation](#), [Denver Foundation](#), [Latino Community Foundation of Colorado](#), [Rose Community Foundation](#) and [Next50 Initiative](#).

Grant Deadlines: Wednesday, April 28, 2021 by 5:00 p.m.

[Learn more](#) about this opportunity, including funding criteria and how to apply. An informational webinar about the grant was hosted on March 9 and the recording is [available online](#).

**Please share this opportunity with organizations that might be interested in applying.**

Thank you,

Department of Health Care Policy & Financing

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