



August 2023

California Providers:

Subject: Changes to COVID-19 Vaccine Access

You and colleagues across the country have carried out the largest national vaccination program in U.S. history, giving more than 270 million people at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine and contributing to large declines in deaths and hospitalizations. Continued access to vaccine will continue to be important to protect vulnerable Californians against ongoing viral mutation this winter and beyond.

This fall, most COVID-19 vaccine will be purchased by providers rather than the federal government. Providers are encouraged to prepare for the transition by:

- Assessing how your patients will access COVID-19 vaccine
- Ordering, offering and administering COVID-19 through one or more of the following pathways in California:

Commercial market: Providers may contact manufacturers or distributors to order COVID-19 vaccine, akin to purchasing influenza vaccine.

California Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program: will include COVID-19 vaccine, requiring participating providers to order and offer COVID-19 vaccine along with other routine childhood immunizations.

Bridge Access Program (BAP): The California Department of Public Health will invite selected safety net providers to participate in this program, including those who have historically vaccinated uninsured adults. Selected pharmacies (sites to be determined) will also receive COVID-19 vaccine through BAP for adults who are under- and uninsured.

Thank you for your continued efforts to routinize COVID-19 vaccination into your clinics. We will be sending out communications on the updated COVID-19 vaccine as soon as we receive guidance. For more information, you are encouraged to review the [commercialization FAQs](#) and additional resources below.

Resources

- [Commercialization FAQs](#)
- [Commercialization Provider Transition Guide](#)
- [California Vaccines for Children \(VFC\) Program](#)
- [Bridge Access Program \(BAP\)](#)



(Continues below)

Thank you again for keeping California kids healthy and protected against COVID-19 disease.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Yasuko Fukuda", followed by "MD" in a smaller, less cursive font.

Yasuko Fukuda, MD FAAP
Chair, American Academy of Pediatrics, District IX California

Lauren Simon, MD
President, California Academy of Family Physicians

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lauren Simon".

Jasjit Singh, MD
President, California Immunization Coalition

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donaldo Hernandez".

Donaldo Hernandez, MD
President, California Medical Association