PHARMACY BENEFACT

A BULLETIN FOR PHARMACY SERVICE PROVIDERS FROM ALBERTA BLUE CROSS®

Fall 2025–2026 COVID-19 Immunization Program

Starting October 20, 2025, all Albertans six months of age and older will be eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine through **public health clinics**.

Some Albertans may qualify for **free** vaccine coverage if they have an eligible medical condition. Some conditions include diabetes, depression, certain heart conditions, obesity, pregnancy and more.

A list of medical conditions can be found on the Alberta government website at <u>alberta.ca/coronavirus-info-for-albertans#vaccine</u>.

Coverage of privately purchased COVID-19 vaccines

Some private Alberta Blue Cross® plans may include coverage for vaccines. However, the amount of coverage can vary. Plan members are advised to check if the COVID-19 vaccine is covered and confirm their annual coverage limit.

Tip: Plan members can find more information by signing into the member site at members.ab.bluecross.ca.

COVID-19 vaccines that may be covered under private plans:

DIN/NPN	Product description
2552035	Comirnaty 30 mcg/0.3 ml injection syringe
2541270	Spikevax 0.1 mg/ml multidose vial injection
2557770	Spikevax 50 mcg/0.5 ml injection syringe

Claims for COVID-19 vaccines purchased from pharmacies by Alberta Blue Cross plan members may be direct billed through the Alberta Blue Cross PRIDE RT claims adjudication system. These claims will adjudicate according to the member's coverage.

Key notes:

- As schedule II drugs, COVID-19 vaccines aren't eligible for the assessment for prescribing at initial access or prescribing to manage ongoing therapy service fee.
- COVID-19 vaccines aren't listed on the Alberta Drug Benefit List, Human Services Drugs Benefit Supplement, or Palliative
 Care Drug Benefit Supplement. As a result, they're not eligible for the assessment for the administration of a product
 by injection service fee, although pharmacies may charge individuals for this service.

Reporting of privately purchased COVID-19 vaccines

All pharmacies must report the administration of privately purchased COVID-19 vaccines to Alberta's provincial immunization repository (ImmARI).

As required under the *Immunization Regulation*, all vaccines administered in the province, whether publicly funded or privately purchased, must be reported within seven days of administration.

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When reporting, please ensure the following:

Reason Code 99 – Non-Provincially Funded must be used for all privately purchased COVID-19 vaccine submissions.

Do not use Alberta Blue Cross claims submissions to report privately purchased vaccines to the Ministry or Netcare.

Submission

Pharmacies that are **not** enabled for Real-time Integration (RTI) must submit through Immunization Data Submission Mechanism (IDSM) at <u>albertanetcare.ca/learningcentreImmDirectSubmission.htm</u>, a free, vendor-independent web application.

Pharmacies enabled with RTI will have their immunization data automatically uploaded to the Ministry via ImmARI. This requires prior completion of a Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) that includes the transmission of data to ImmARI. If you are unsure of your pharmacy's PIA status, please review your PIA or contact your software vendor for confirmation.

Until a completed PIA is in place, RTI-enabled pharmacies must continue submitting manually through IDSM.

For more information, please contact your software vendor.

Primary and Preventative Health Services (formerly Alberta Health) thanks you for your cooperation in ensuring timely and accurate reporting of immunization information.

For assistance with benefit or claim inquiries, please contact an Alberta Blue Cross Pharmacy Services Provider Relations contact centre representative at

780-498-8370 (Edmonton and area) 403-294-4041 (Calgary and area) 1-800-361-9632 (toll free) FAX 780-498-8406 (Edmonton and area) FAX 1-877-305-9911 (toll free) Alberta Blue Cross offers online access to current Pharmacy Benefacts and supplemental claiming information to assist with the submission of your direct-bill drug claims.

Visit ab.bluecross.ca/providers/pharmacy-home.php





