

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Department of Health Care Finance



Office of the Senior Deputy Director and Medicaid Director

MDL # 25-03

MEDICAID DIRECTOR LETTER

TO: All Interested Parties

DATE: October 22, 2025

SUBJECT: **Guidance on Medicaid Vaccine Coverage**

Purpose

The purpose of this Medicaid Director Letter (MDL) is to confirm that the D.C. Medicaid program continues to provide cost-free coverage for all vaccines recommended by the health organizations designated by the D.C. Department of Health (DOH) Director.

DOH Designated Health Organizations

Pursuant to the adoption of the D.C. Community Health Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2025¹, D.C. Medicaid beneficiaries will continue to have cost-free coverage of all vaccines recommended by the following health organizations, duly designated by the D.C. DOH Director:

1. American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG);
2. American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP); and
3. American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP)

Order and Administration

D.C. Medicaid participating pharmacies will continue to offer cost-free coverage of the vaccines recommended by ACOG, AAP, or AAFP. An existing prescription is not required, as duly licensed pharmacists are authorized to both originate orders, and administer vaccines. Pharmacy technicians are authorized to administer the recommended immunizations.

Age

DHCF's cost free coverage of all vaccines recommended by the above designated organizations applies to all D.C. Medicaid beneficiaries, inclusive of individuals both under and over the age of 18.

Medicaid Coverage of Vaccines

Medicaid covers nearly all drugs approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for their approved indication, including vaccines. Until and unless FDA approval is rescinded for a given drug or vaccine, DHCF does not anticipate an impact to cost free coverage for any currently

¹ "Community Health Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2025," available at <https://lims.dccouncil.gov/Legislation/PR26-0297>

covered drugs or vaccines.

COVID-19 Vaccines for 2025-2026

Recently, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved four 2025–26 COVID-19 vaccines from three manufacturers on August 27, 2025. DC Medicaid coverage of COVID-19 vaccinations remains unchanged from previous guidance. Per the AAP, all individuals aged 6 months and older, are recommended to get the COVID 19 vaccine.² People 65 and older, those with underlying health conditions, young children, and pregnant people are *strongly encouraged* to get vaccinated. District residents should talk with their health care provider if they have any questions about the COVID-19 vaccine.

Measles, Mumps, Rubella, and Varicella Vaccine Coverage for Children

At this time, the Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR) vaccine, and single Varicella vaccine are available as two *separate* vaccines, at no cost for children under the age of four. The MMR and Varicella vaccines are different from the *combined* MMRV, which represents Measles, Mumps, Rubella and Varicella in a single vaccine. Unlike the MMR and Varicella vaccines, the MMRV combined vaccine is available at no cost for children under the age of four *only if recommended* by a licensed provider, within their scope of practice.

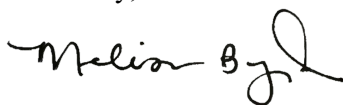
As the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) or other relevant medical organizations update their immunization schedules and recommendations in the future, the Department may issue further guidance.

In the event that the District of Columbia Director of the Department of Health Director designates specific immunizations and vaccines through a public notice, DHCF expects such immunizations will be covered by the DC Medicaid Program.

Contact

For questions, please contact Chimene Liburd, MD, Chief Medical Officer, Office of the State Medicaid Director, at chimene.liburd@dc.gov.

Sincerely,



Melisa Byrd

Senior Deputy Director and Medicaid Director

Cc: DC Behavioral Health Association
DC Coalition of Disability Service Providers
DC Health Care Association
DC Home Health Association
DC Hospital Association
DC Primary Care Association
Medical Society of the District of Columbia

² See AAP Recommendations for COVID-19 Vaccines in Infants, Children and Adolescents: Policy Statement, available at <https://publications.aap.org/pediatrics/article/doi/10.1542/peds.2025-073924/203222/Recommendations-for-COVID-19-Vaccines-in-Infants?autologincheck=redirected>