

## Bridge Access Program Talking Points

The following talking points are designed to help you deliver accurate, consistent, and easy-to-understand information about the Bridge Access Program to eligible adults and interested news media, community partners, and other stakeholders. You can incorporate these points into your campaign messages and materials, public speaking engagements, media pitches and interviews, and other outreach tools and tactics. For additional information, please visit [cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/bridge](https://cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/bridge).

### **The distribution of COVID-19 vaccines changed in Fall 2023.**

- The COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Program that provided free COVID-19 vaccines ended in September 2023.
- Most private health insurance, Medicare, and Medicaid plans cover updated COVID-19 vaccines without cost-sharing.
- However, there are 25-30 million adults without health insurance and additional adults whose insurance plan doesn't fully cover the cost of a COVID-19 vaccine.
- CDC's [Bridge Access Program](https://cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/bridge) serves as a temporary bridge to provide free updated COVID-19 vaccines to uninsured and underinsured adults. The program will end in August 2024.

### **Adults without health insurance or adults whose insurance doesn't cover COVID-19 vaccine costs can get a free updated COVID-19 vaccine through the Bridge Access Program.**

- Uninsured adults aged 18 years and older can get a free updated COVID-19 vaccine through the Bridge Access Program. Additionally, adults 18 years and older with health insurance that doesn't fully cover COVID-19 vaccine costs in-network can get a free updated COVID-19 vaccine through the Bridge Access Program.
- Adults whose insurance plan covers COVID-19 vaccine costs in-network are not eligible to get a free COVID-19 vaccine from an out-of-network provider participating in the Bridge Access Program.
- The Bridge Access Program is designed to remove patient barriers to COVID-19 vaccines. There is no enrollment process for eligible adults to get a free COVID-19 vaccine through the Bridge Access Program. Providers will ask patients whether they have health insurance at the point of care to determine eligibility.

### **The Bridge Access Program aims to increase access to free COVID-19 vaccines.**

- There are over 30,000 active Bridge Access Program providers, and more sites are being added.
- 83% of adults without health insurance live within 5-miles of an active Bridge Access Program provider.

- Eligible adults can get a free COVID-19 vaccine through the Bridge Access Program at:
  - Local healthcare providers partnered with state and local health departments
  - HRSA-supported health centers partnered with state and local immunization programs.
  - Retail pharmacies, including CVS, Walgreens, and pharmacies partnered with [eTrueNorth](#).
  - Community events or pop-up sites with participating providers or pharmacies may be available.

**Visit [Vaccines.gov](#) to find a free updated COVID-19 vaccine and providers participating in the Bridge Access Program.**

- First, select "Find COVID-19 Vaccines." Then type in your 5-digit ZIP code and which vaccine option(s) you're interested in finding. Next, select "Search for COVID-19 vaccines." You can then filter locations by participating providers and pharmacies. Select the "Bridge Access Program Participant" option under the "Only show locations with:" section.

**If you had trouble getting a free updated COVID-19 vaccine before, check again. CDC is working closely with vaccine manufacturers, distributors, and providers to improve COVID-19 vaccine access.**

- Call before you go! Reach out to your provider or pharmacy about the cost and availability of COVID-19 vaccines before you schedule an appointment.
- If you have health insurance and think you were incorrectly charged for a COVID-19 vaccine, please contact your insurance provider.
- If you think a healthcare provider incorrectly charged you for a COVID-19 vaccine, please contact the provider.