

# COVID-19 Vaccine Commercialization FAQ

## What is COVID-19 vaccine commercialization?

Commercialization of COVID-19 vaccines will transition vaccines previously purchased by the U.S. government to established pathways of procurement, distribution, and payment by both public and private payers. [HHS Commercialization Transition Guide-Sunsetting the US Government COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Program- July 6, 2023 \(cdc.gov\)](#)

## What is the timeline for COVID-19 vaccine commercialization?

COVID-19 commercialization is estimated to take place in September. CDC has not yet confirmed the exact timeline for commercialization. VDH will keep providers posted via email when we hear more details.

## What is the Bridge Access Program?

The Bridge Access Program will ensure temporary, cost-free access to COVID-19 vaccine for uninsured and underinsured adults 19 years of age and older. The program will go into effect shortly after COVID-19 vaccine commercialization in the Fall of 2023 through December 2024. The program will be run under the management and oversight of CDC, and in coordination with state immunization awardees, health centers, and pharmacies. [CDC to Launch “Bridge Access Program” in Fall 2023 to Provide Free COVID-19 Vaccines to Uninsured and Underinsured Adults | CDC Online Newsroom | CDC](#)

## What brands will be available?

The anticipated products for updated COVID-19 vaccines that are expected to be authorized/approved by the FDA are Moderna (SDVs), Novavax (MDVs), Pfizer (SDVs and MDVs)

## Will VDH still supply COVID-19 vaccines for uninsured adults?

Yes. The Virginia Vaccines for Adults (VVFA) program providers will be able to offer COVID-19 vaccine for uninsured and underinsured adults with funding made available through the Bridge Access Program.

## What if I am not enrolled in VVFA, but want to provide COVID-19 vaccine for uninsured and underinsured adults?

You will need to enroll as a COVID-19 specialty provider. The agreement is here [VVFA Enrollment - Immunization \(virginia.gov\)](#)

## Will my VFC-enrolled pediatric practice be required to order COVID-19 vaccine?

VFC providers will be able to order the COVID-19 vaccine through the VFC Order Center. With the exception of certain specialty providers, all enrolled Vaccines for Children (VFC) provider locations are required to procure and maintain COVID-19 vaccine inventory for the populations they serve.

## Do I have to pick only one brand of COVID-19 vaccine?

Sites can pick any product and have multiple products at a time.

## Will I be penalized for COVID-19 vaccine wastage?

At this time, sites will not be penalized for COVID-19 vaccine wastage that is not due to negligence.

## Do I need dry ice or an ultra-low temperature freezer?

No. Each COVID-19 brand can be stored in the refrigerator at 2°C and 8°C (36°F and 46°F).

### Pfizer Vaccine Storage Unit(s)

Unpunctured vials may be stored in the:

- Ultra-cold freezer

Do NOT store in the thermal shipping container or a freezer.

- Refrigerator (do not refreeze thawed vaccine)

### Moderna Vaccine Storage Unit(s)

Unpunctured vials may be stored in the:

- Freezer
- Refrigerator (do not refreeze thawed vaccine)

### Novavax Vaccine Storage Unit

- Refrigerator