

ForwardHealth UPDATE

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FORWARDHEALTH VACCINE COVERAGE: NEW SOURCES OF VACCINE RECOMMENDATIONS AND REVISED BILLING FOR COVID-19, INFLUENZA, AND MEASLES, MUMPS, RUBELLA, AND VARICELLA VACCINES

ForwardHealth is making changes to vaccine policy including coverage of COVID-19, influenza, and measles, mumps, rubella, and varicella (MMRV) vaccines to ensure ongoing access to vaccines for BadgerCare Plus and Medicaid members. These changes are consistent with [Executive Order #275](#) issued by Governor Tony Evers on September 15, 2025.

ForwardHealth is also making policy and systems updates to improve the vaccine billing and claims process.

Due to the time needed to make system changes, vaccine claims submitted October 1–31, 2025, will suspend until November 1, 2025, when they will be automatically processed.

AFFECTED PROGRAMS

BadgerCare Plus, Medicaid

TO

All Providers, HMOs and Other Managed Care Programs

QUICK LINKS

- Vaccines topic [#12457](#)
- Immunizations topic [#503](#)

The information provided in this ForwardHealth Update is published in accordance with Executive Order #275.



Other changes will be announced in subsequent ForwardHealth Updates or Alerts.

This Update contains information on:

- [Adding New Sources of Vaccine Recommendations as a Basis for Coverage](#)
- [Updated Vaccine Policy for Providers](#)
- [System Changes for COVID-19, Influenza, and MMRV Vaccines and Administration Billing](#)
 - [Changes to Billing for Updated COVID-19 Vaccines and Administration](#)
 - [Changes to Billing for Updated Influenza Vaccines and Administration](#)
 - [Changes to Billing for MMRV Vaccines and Administration](#)
- [Claims Submission](#)

Adding New Sources of Vaccine Recommendations as a Basis for Coverage

ForwardHealth will no longer limit coverage to only those vaccines recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), with the exception of coverage under SeniorCare. ForwardHealth intends to continue broad coverage of vaccines. Policy will now acknowledge the State's discretion to allow coverage of vaccines recommended by governing bodies that use evidence-based methodologies, as determined by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS). Examples of such governing bodies could include the American Academy of Pediatrics and the National Academy of Medicine.

The ForwardHealth Online Handbook Vaccines [#12457](#) and Immunizations [#503](#) topics will be updated to reflect these changes. Additional topics will be reviewed and updated as necessary.

Note: SeniorCare vaccine policy is not affected by this change, but providers will still need to follow the new billing and claims processes for COVID-19 and influenza vaccines. SeniorCare will continue to cover ACIP-recommended vaccines only.

Updated Vaccine Policy for Providers

For dates of service on and after October 1, 2025, ForwardHealth is updating the billing guidance for the following vaccine products:

- Updated 2025–2026 seasonal COVID-19 vaccine
- Updated 2025–2026 seasonal influenza vaccine
- Combined MMRV vaccine

REMINDER

Important Vaccine Policy Reminders

- If a member is enrolled in a BadgerCare Plus or SSI HMO, pharmacy providers are required to submit a fee-for-service claim to ForwardHealth. BadgerCare Plus and SSI HMOs are not able to accept claims for vaccines from pharmacy providers.
- If a member is enrolled in a BadgerCare Plus or SSI HMO, medical providers should bill vaccines to the member's managed care organization (MCO).
- Members do not have out-of-pocket expenses for vaccines.
- Providers are required to enter vaccines for all members into the Wisconsin Immunization Registry (WIR) within **seven days** of administering the vaccine. For more information, refer to the [WIR website](#).

The information provided in this ForwardHealth Update is published in accordance with Executive Order #275.

ForwardHealth does not provide reimbursement for the vaccine product when supplied by the federal [Vaccines for Children](#) (VFC) program. Vaccine product provided through VFC will require an SL modifier (State-supplied vaccine) on the claim detail for the vaccine; claim details for the administration of VFC vaccines do not require the SL modifier.

To ensure that Medicaid members who are also eligible for VFC (for example, members under age 19) have coverage for COVID-19, influenza, and MMRV vaccines, ForwardHealth will reimburse providers for vaccine and vaccine administration for VFC-eligible members when VFC vaccine is not available, and the provider uses private stock to vaccinate members.

Providers should make a good faith effort to obtain and use VFC vaccine stock for VFC-eligible members with Medicaid coverage. ~~Providers should note in the member's record that VFC vaccine is not available when administering private stock vaccine to a VFC-eligible Medicaid member.~~ Providers must document the reason for using private vaccine stock for VFC-eligible members and include the lack of VFC availability and/or a clinical rationale for use of a non-VFC vaccine presentation when other versions of the vaccine are available through VFC.

The reimbursement rates for the listed procedure codes are found on the [maximum allowable fee schedules](#) on the ForwardHealth Portal (the Portal).

System Changes for COVID-19, Influenza, and MMRV Vaccines and Administration Billing

ForwardHealth is implementing a new billing process for these vaccines effective November 1, 2025. As a result, ForwardHealth will temporarily suspend claims with these codes submitted on and after October 1, 2025. ForwardHealth will automatically process the suspended claims on November 1, 2025, after the system updates are completed.

Providers are encouraged to continue to provide these important vaccine services. ForwardHealth will honor properly submitted claims that are received during this billing policy transition.

If a provider determines that a suspended claim was submitted and did not follow the billing instructions below (for example, missing the vaccine administration code or SL modifier), providers should resubmit their claim to ensure proper reimbursement.

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For all other vaccines not specifically mentioned in this Update, providers are still required to indicate the specific procedure code of the vaccine administered on claims. ForwardHealth will continue to reimburse providers for both the cost of the vaccine and the administration when only the vaccine procedure code is submitted on a claim.

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Changes to Billing for Updated COVID-19 Vaccines and Administration

The following table identifies procedure codes for the updated COVID-19 vaccines and for COVID-19 vaccine administration that are covered by ForwardHealth.

PROCEDURE CODE	DESCRIPTION
90480	Immunization administration by intramuscular injection of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARSCoV-2) (coronavirus disease [COVID-19]) vaccine, single dose
91304	Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARSCoV-2) (coronavirus disease [COVID-19]) vaccine, recombinant spike protein nanoparticle, saponin-based adjuvant, 5 mcg/0.5 mL dosage, for intramuscular use
91319	Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARSCoV-2) (coronavirus disease [COVID-19]) vaccine, mRNA LNP, spike protein, 10 mcg/0.3 mL dosage, tris-sucrose formulation, for intramuscular use
91320	Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARSCoV-2) (coronavirus disease [COVID-19]) vaccine, mRNA LNP, spike protein, 30 mcg/0.3 mL dosage, tris-sucrose formulation, for intramuscular use
91321	Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARSCoV-2) (coronavirus disease [COVID-19]) vaccine, mRNA LNP, 25 mcg/0.25 mL dosage, for intramuscular use

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91322	Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARSCoV-2) (coronavirus disease [COVID-19]) vaccine, mRNA-LNP, 50 mcg/0.5 mL dosage, for intramuscular use
91323	Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARSCoV-2) (coronavirus disease [COVID-19]) vaccine, mRNA-LNP, 10 mcg/0.2 mL dosage, for intramuscular use

COVID-19 Vaccines for Children

The updated COVID-19 vaccines are part of the VFC program. VFC-enrolled providers should include the following on claims for updated COVID-19 vaccines administered to Medicaid members under age 19:

- The applicable vaccine product code
- The SL modifier (to indicate a state-supplied vaccine)
- The administration code 90480

ForwardHealth doesn't provide reimbursement for the vaccine product when supplied by the VFC program. ForwardHealth reimburses for the COVID-19 vaccine administration.

Non-VFC Pharmacy Provider COVID-19 Vaccines for Children

As a reminder, the authority under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness (PREP) Act for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to authorize reimbursement for non-VFC pharmacies who provide COVID-19 vaccines was extended until December 31, 2029.

Non-VFC-enrolled pharmacy providers should include the following on claims for updated COVID-19 vaccines administered to Medicaid members under age 19:

- The applicable vaccine product code
- The administration code 90480

For non-VFC pharmacy providers providing COVID-19 vaccines to Medicaid-eligible children, ForwardHealth reimburses for the vaccine product and vaccine administration.

COVID-19 Vaccines for Adults

Providers should include the following on claims for the updated COVID-19 vaccines administered to Medicaid members aged 19 years and older:

- The applicable vaccine product code
- The administration code 90480

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For members 19 years of age and older, ForwardHealth reimburses providers for the vaccine product and vaccine administration.

Changes to Billing for Updated Influenza Vaccines and Administration

The following table identifies procedure codes for the updated influenza vaccines and for influenza vaccine administration that are covered by ForwardHealth.

PROCEDURE CODE	DESCRIPTION
90471	Immunization administration (includes percutaneous, intradermal, subcutaneous, or intramuscular injections); 1 vaccine (single or combination vaccine/toxoid)
90472	Immunization administration (includes percutaneous, intradermal, subcutaneous, or intramuscular injections); each additional vaccine (single or combination vaccine/toxoid) (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
90473	Immunization administration by intranasal or oral route; 1 vaccine (single or combination vaccine/toxoid)
90474	Immunization administration by intranasal or oral route; each additional vaccine (single or combination vaccine/toxoid) (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
90653	Influenza vaccine, inactivated (IIV), subunit, adjuvanted, for intramuscular use
90656	Influenza virus vaccine, trivalent (IIV3), split virus, preservative free, 0.5 mL dosage, for intramuscular use
90657	Influenza virus vaccine, trivalent (IIV3), split virus, 0.25 mL dosage, for intramuscular use
90658	Influenza virus vaccine, trivalent (IIV3), split virus, 0.5 mL dosage, for intramuscular use
90660	Influenza virus vaccine, trivalent, live (LAIV3), for intranasal use
90661	Influenza virus vaccine, trivalent (ccIIV3), derived from cell cultures, subunit, antibiotic free, 0.5 mL dosage, for intramuscular use

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90662	Influenza virus vaccine (IIV), split virus, preservative free, enhanced immunogenicity via increased antigen content, for intramuscular use
90673	Influenza virus vaccine, trivalent (RIV3), derived from recombinant DNA, hemagglutinin (HA) protein only, preservative and antibiotic free, for intramuscular use

Influenza Vaccines for Children

The updated influenza vaccines are part of the VFC program. VFC-enrolled providers should include the following on claims for updated influenza vaccines administered to Medicaid members under age 19:

- The applicable vaccine product code
- The SL modifier (to indicate a state-supplied vaccine)
- The applicable administration code (90471, 90472, 90473, or 90474)

ForwardHealth does not provide reimbursement for the vaccine product when supplied by the VFC program. ForwardHealth reimburses for the influenza vaccine administration.

Non-VFC Pharmacy Provider Influenza Vaccines for Children

As a reminder, the authority under the PREP Act for HHS to authorize reimbursement for non-VFC pharmacies who provide influenza vaccines was extended until December 31, 2029.

Non-VFC-enrolled pharmacy providers should include the following on claims for updated influenza vaccines administered to Medicaid members under age 19:

- The applicable vaccine product code
- The applicable administration code (90471, 90472, 90473, or 90474)

For non-VFC pharmacy providers providing influenza vaccines to Medicaid-eligible children, ForwardHealth reimburses for the vaccine product and vaccine administration.

Influenza Vaccines for Adults

Providers should include the following on claims for the updated influenza vaccines administered to Medicaid members aged 19 years and older:

- The applicable vaccine product code
- The applicable administration code (90471, 90472, 90473, or 90474)

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For members 19 years of age and older, ForwardHealth reimburses providers for the vaccine product and vaccine administration.

Changes to Billing for MMRV Vaccine and Administration

The following table identifies ForwardHealth-covered procedure codes for the MMRV vaccine and administration.

PROCEDURE CODE	DESCRIPTION
90471	Immunization administration (includes percutaneous, intradermal, subcutaneous, or intramuscular injections); 1 vaccine (single or combination vaccine/toxoid)
90472	Immunization administration (includes percutaneous, intradermal, subcutaneous, or intramuscular injections); each additional vaccine (single or combination vaccine/toxoid) (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
90710	Measles, mumps, rubella and varicella vaccine (MMRV), live, for subcutaneous use

MMRV Vaccines Supplied by Vaccines for Children

The MMRV vaccine is part of the VFC program. VFC-enrolled providers should include the following on claims for MMRV vaccines administered to Medicaid members under age 19:

- The applicable vaccine product code
- The SL modifier (to indicate a state-supplied vaccine)
- The applicable administration code (90471 or 90472)

ForwardHealth does not provide reimbursement for the vaccine product when supplied by the VFC program. ForwardHealth reimburses for the MMRV vaccine administration.

MMRV Vaccines Not Supplied by Vaccines for Children

Providers should include the following on claims for non-VFC-supplied MMRV vaccines administered to Medicaid members:

- The applicable vaccine product code
- The applicable administration code (90471 or 90472)

For non-VFC-supplied MMRV vaccines, ForwardHealth reimburses providers for the vaccine product and vaccine administration.

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Claims Submission

Providers may submit claims for vaccines via the following:

- 1500 Health Insurance Claim Form
- 837 Health Care Claim: Professional transaction
- Direct Data Entry on the Portal
- Provider Electronic Solutions claims submission software

Pharmacy providers may not submit compound or noncompound drug claims for vaccine services using National Drug Codes, as claims will be denied.

Documentation Retention

Providers are reminded that they must follow the documentation retention requirements per Wis. Admin. Code § [DHS 106.02\(9\)](#). Providers are required to produce or submit documentation, or both, to DHS upon request. Per Wis. Stat. § [49.45\(3\)\(f\)](#), providers of services shall maintain records as required by DHS for verification of provider claims for reimbursement. DHS may audit such records to verify the actual provision of services and the appropriateness and accuracy of claims. DHS may deny or recoup payment for services that fail to meet these requirements. Refusal to produce documentation may result in denial of submitted claims, recoupment of paid claims, application of intermediate sanctions, or termination from the Medicaid program.

Information Regarding Managed Care Organizations

This Update applies to vaccines that members receive on a fee-for-service basis and through BadgerCare Plus, Medicaid SSI, and other managed care programs. For information about managed care implementation of the updated policy, contact the appropriate MCO. MCOs are required to provide at least the same benefits as those provided under fee-for-service arrangements.

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The ForwardHealth Update is the first source of program policy and billing information for providers.

Wisconsin Medicaid, BadgerCare Plus, SeniorCare, and Wisconsin Chronic Disease Program are administered by the Division of Medicaid Services within the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS). The Wisconsin HIV Drug Assistance Program and the Wisconsin Well Woman Program are administered by the Division of Public Health within DHS.

For questions, call Provider Services at 800-947-9627 or visit our website at www.forwardhealth.wi.gov/.