

To: PCAs & HCCNs

Re: Fall 2024 Vaccination Season

Date: 10/28/2024

From: NACHC Policy and Clinical Staff

As you all are aware, the CDC COVID-19 Bridge Program ended in August 2024. To support this fall's vaccination efforts, we wanted to provide an update on available resources for PCAs and health centers to leverage. If you have any additional questions about the resources below, please reach out to Sarah Price (SPrice@nachc.org), Director of Public Health & Integration and Elizabeth Linderbaum (ELinderbaum@nachc.org), Deputy Director of Regulatory Affairs.

Adult Vaccination Resources

Uninsured and underinsured

CDC has distributed **\$62 million funding** to public health jurisdictions to help purchase and distribute COVID-19 vaccines for uninsured *and underinsured* adults. Important notes about this funding:

- This funding permits more flexibility and is NOT time limited to order vaccines
- The number of shots distributed to states is dependent on the percentage of the state's population compared to the overall U.S. population
 - Like the Bridge Program, if a state needs more shots, they can reach out to neighboring states and request to buy excess unused vaccines.
- There is a virtual inventory at a centralized location; vaccine purchase accounts run on the fiscal year (or leading up to an expiration date) ‘

To access these vaccines and funding, here is the next step to take:

- Reach out to your public health department to make a request for financial support for the health centers in your state. Last year, some states provided free COVID-19 vaccines AND additional funding to support the administrative costs related to vaccination.
- Get connected to your [State Immunization Managers](#)
 - Connect directly with your immunization manager within your jurisdiction to access these free vaccines. Consider this for regular immunization or special events.
 - Please let us know if you need help connecting with your state's immunization managers. NACHC can work with the Association of Immunizations to find the proper contacts.

Medicaid

- We encourage PCAs to work in coordination with their Medicaid agency to implement state flexibilities to address reimbursement challenges when vaccines are provided during routine primary care visits.

- In February 2024, CMS released a helpful [new toolkit](#) outlining State flexibilities to increase reimbursement to cover the cost of administering the vaccine and/or the cost of purchasing the vaccine.
 - For a quick summary, [review this NACHC infographic](#). The following analysis looks at the impact of recent policy changes within the new toolkit and its potential to improve vaccine access for health center patients.

Vaccination Communication Resources for Health Centers

Childhood Vaccination Resources

- While overall national routine childhood vaccination coverage rates remain high, two new CDC reports show vaccination coverage among [young children](#) and [kindergarteners](#) continues to decline and disparities by race and ethnicity, health insurance status, poverty status, and urbanicity persist.
- Health care providers are a trusted source of information for parents. Check out **free audience-tested childhood vaccination communication resources** to help you educate parents about vaccinations and the risks of non-vaccination to their child and the community:
 - CDC's new [“Keeps It That Way” communications effort](#) is informed by feedback from parents of young children representative of the general public, including those living in rural areas. It aims to raise awareness about the risk of disease and invites parents to learn more about the diseases and the protection vaccines can provide to children's health. This communication effort encourages parents and caregivers to talk to their child's healthcare provider and keep their child up to date on all recommended vaccines. “Keeps It That Way” has communication materials, including social media posts and office posters, that are available for downloading and printing. For information on the campaign and to inquire about unbranded design files, please contact ISDChildhoodVax@cdc.gov.
 - CDC's new [“Grow Up Healthy” growth chart](#) (PDF) features recommended immunizations and expected developmental milestones for babies/children ages 2 months to 5 years. Get up to 10 printed [Grow Up Healthy!](#) exam room posters shipped to your health center for free by emailing actearly@cdc.gov.

“Risk Less. Do More” Campaign -- Free Communication Resources to Promote Vaccination

NACHC is a supporter of the new HHS campaign to promote vaccination. Find [downloadable graphics](#) with tested messages tailored for a range of audiences, including 65+, caregivers, pregnant people, and more. There are also [handouts for patients](#).