Vaccine-Preventable Diseases & Immunization Program
COVID-19 Bridge Access Program & Commercialization
Updated: September 15, 2023

NOTE: Changes from last week indicated in red below. All information subject to change based on updated federal guidance and vaccine availability.

Timeline for COVID-19 Bridge Access Program & Commercialization

September 11: FDA authorization of 2023-2024 COVID-19 mRNA Vaccines (Pfizer and Moderna ONLY). De-authorization of the bivalent Moderna and Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines.

Note: De-authorized bivalent mRNA vaccines (Moderna and Pfizer) should be discarded and wasted per released guidance. There have been no changes to the previously approved Novavax vaccines at this time.

September 12: ACIP & CDC Director recommendation for 2023-2024 COVID-19 Vaccines.

September 13: Commercial supply of 2023-2024 COVID-19 Vaccines is available to private providers.

Week of September 18: Anticipate updated recommendations/authorization for Novavax. ***Please await further guidance prior to discarding and wasting Novavax vaccine.***

September 22: Anticipate VFC & Bridge Access Providers will be able to order 2023-2024 COVID-19 vaccines through VOMS after TennIIS downtime.

Mid-Late September/Early October: Anticipate initial allocation of 2023-2024 COVID-19 vaccines to be distributed to Tennessee by CDC. (i.e. first wave of VFC and Bridge Access COVID-19 vaccine)

PENDING: Second wave of onboarding for Bridge Access Program.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **What is the Bridge Access Program?**

The Bridge Access Program for COVID-19 Vaccines and Treatment ("Bridge Access Program") is an opportunity from CDC to ensure continued access to COVID-19 vaccine for uninsured and underinsured adults. Adults who are uninsured or whose insurance does not cover free COVID-19 vaccine will be eligible to receive vaccines purchased and provided through the Bridge Access Program. The Bridge Access Program is divided into two arms: 1) pharmacies will be able to access free COVID-19 vaccines directly from CDC through federal government contracts with CVS, Walgreens and e-True North and 2) public health jurisdictions, including the Tennessee Department of Health (TDH), will receive COVID-19 vaccines to distribute to providers enrolled in the jurisdictional Bridge Access Programs.

2. **Who is eligible for the Bridge Access Program?**

In Tennessee, eligible providers will include providers who care for uninsured and underinsured adults. This may include: local health departments, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), federally designated Rural

Health Clinics, Free & Charitable Care Clinics, and other select providers. Vaccine availability will impact provider enrollment.

3. **How can my organization indicate interest in the Bridge Access Program?**

We are actively recruiting interested providers. If your organization fits into one of the above listed categories or you serve a large uninsured/underinsured adult population, please reach out to Vaccine.Onboarding@tn.gov to indicate your interest in inclusion in the Bridge Access Program and to be added to the list of interested providers. Please include the following information in your interest email:

- Organization/Facility Name:
- Primary Point of Contact Name:
- Primary Point of Contact Email:
- Primary Point of Contact Phone:
- Please indicate which of the following your facility meets:
    - Serve underinsured/uninsured adult population
    - Local HD
    - FQHC
    - Federally designated Rural Health Clinic
    - Free & Charitable Care Clinic

4. **When should I expect to hear if my organization can enroll in Bridge Access Program?**

Enrollment in the Bridge Access Program will be conducted in waves. The Department of Health and select providers with legal contracts already in place have been included in the first wave of providers onboarded to the COVID-19 Bridge Access Program.

The second wave of enrollment in Bridge Access Program will include more providers, including FQHCs, federally designated Rural Health Clinics, Free & Charitable Care Clinics, and other select providers. The number of providers enrolled in the second wave will depend on the number of COVID-19 vaccines that are available.

If you have submitted a survey or indicated your interest to Vaccine.Onboarding@tn.gov, we will notify you about inclusion in the second wave as soon as possible.

5. **When is the Pandemic Provider program ending?**

The COVID-19 Pandemic Vaccinating Provider Program will end with de-authorization of the Novavax COVID-19 vaccines, likely the week of September 18. Please await official communication prior to stopping current requirements of the Pandemic Provider Program.

Providers who are eligible may transition to the VFC or Bridge Access Program. If your organization serves pediatric, uninsured or underinsured population, additional resources are available to assist in onboarding to the VFC Program. For more information, please contact vaccine.onboarding@tn.gov.

All enrolled Pandemic Providers must continue to adhere to the CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Program Provider Agreement while providers have stock and are administering COVID-19 vaccine acquired through this program.

6. **Do I need to enroll in the 317 program to access free COVID-19 vaccine for adults?**

Providers do not need to enroll in the 317 Program to access free COVID-19 vaccine for adults via the Bridge Access Program. The 317 Program is a separate program run by TDH that receives a very small amount of funding to fund adult vaccines. While the two programs (317 and Bridge Access) target the same population (uninsured and underinsured adults), the Bridge Access Program has a separate funding source and will have a separate provider onboarding and enrollment process.

7. **How can I order COVID-19 vaccine?**

There are four options for ordering 2023-2024 COVID-19 vaccine:

- VFC providers will be able to order the 2023-2024 COVID-19 vaccines through VOMS after the vaccines have been added to TennIIS with the downtime on September 21.
- Bridge Access Program Providers will be able to order the 2023-2024 COVID-19 vaccines through VOMS after the vaccines have been added to TennIIS with the downtime on September 21. Please note that providers will not be able to order COVID-19 vaccine until the full onboarding process has been completed and contract is in place.
- Pharmacies can order 2023-2024 COVID-19 vaccines through their distributors or eTrueNorth. ETrueNorth is intended to act as an aggregator of pharmacies for inclusion in Bridge Access Program. Please reach out to eTrueNorth directly about enrolling in their COVID-19 vaccine program or register your interest in enrolling in the eTrueNorth Bridge Access Program at www.etruenorth.com/connect.
- Private providers can order commercial supply of 2023-2024 COVID vaccines directly from manufacturers:
    - Moderna ordering platform: https://modernadirect.com/?tc=ps_ehuxskf&cc=1009&gclsrc=aw.ds&&gclid=CjwKCAjwxOymBhAFEiwAnodBLElzDtyFfaWdCsob4tt3liNc35WKnlMFWg2VcmhmOzTeGq0l6Y0sZBoCHsUQAvD_BwE\
    - Pfizer ordering platform: https://primevaccines.pfizer.com/vaccine/en/USD/login
    - Novavax will not have its own direct ordering platform but will be available through contracted distributors (I.e. Amerisource Bergen, Cardinal Health, FFF Enterprises, Henry Schein, McKesson Medical Surgical, McKesson Plasma & Biologics). If you have further questions, please reach out to Tyler Sangster at tsangster@novavax.com.

8. **Are there any changes to the COVID-19 grant funding that I receive from TDH with commercialization?**

We do not anticipate any changes to current COVID-19 contracts that have been granted through TDH.

9. **Who is eligible for the 2023-2024 COVID-19 Vaccines?**

According to the 2023-2024 ACIP Recommendations, everyone over 6 months of age is recommended to receive the 2023-2024 COVID-19 vaccine:

- Children 6 months to 4 years who were previously unvaccinated are recommended to get either 2 doses of Moderna, or 3 doses of Pfizer as an initial series.
- Children and adults 5 years of age and older are recommended to receive one dose of the 2023-2024 COVID-19 vaccine regardless of prior vaccination history.

10. **Who should I reach out to with questions about Bridge Access Program and Commercialization?**

Please send any questions to Vaccine.Onboarding@tn.gov. If you have additional questions or are having trouble reaching someone, please call our VPDIP Help Desk at (800)342-1813.

For more information

Bridge Access Program

- CDC COVID-19 Bridge Access Program General Information: https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/bridge/index.html
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Commercialization

- FAQs Commercialization of COVID 19 Countermeasures: https://aspr.hhs.gov/COVID-19/Pages/FAQ-Commercialization.aspx
- CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Program Provider Requirements and Support Webpage: https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/vaccination-provider-support.html#requirements
- FAQs About Implementing COVID-19 Vaccination Program in Provider Practices: https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/vaccine-providers-faq.html