



PUBLIC HEALTH FOR ALL

Vaccines Q&A

(Source: [California Department of Public Health](#))

Where can I get my COVID, flu, and RSV vaccines?

COVID-19, flu, and RSV vaccines can be obtained from health care providers, local pharmacies, community health centers, and other authorized vaccine providers.

Do pharmacies have to carry these vaccines?

Many pharmacies offer COVID-19, flu, RSV, and other vaccines, but pharmacies are not required to carry them. Recent updates to California law including Health and Safety Code 120164, make it easier for pharmacies to give these vaccines as recommended by CDPH to persons 3 years and older, despite federal policy changes. Check with your local pharmacy or visit [MyTurn.ca/gov](https://myturn.ca.gov) to find available vaccines near you.

Will my COVID, flu, and RSV vaccines be covered by my health insurance?

Yes, most health plans and insurance companies recognize that vaccination is a vital tool for preventing disease and more severe and costly outcomes. Updated California law requires state-regulated health plans and insurance companies to continue covering regular immunizations recommended by CDPH. This includes flu, COVID, and RSV. Insurers not regulated by California, such as the Veterans Administration and Medicare plans, along with self-insurance plans regulated by federal ERISA law, may not cover vaccinations that are not recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Check with your health plan or health insurer if you have questions about coverage.

Does this include Medi-Cal?

Yes. Under the updates to California law including Health and Safety Code 120164, COVID-19, influenza, and RSV vaccines must be covered by state-regulated health insurers, including Medi-Cal.

Are updated 2025-26 vaccines available? Are they also covered?

Updated 2025-26 COVID-19 and influenza vaccine are increasingly available and are covered. RSV vaccines are also covered. Additional doses will continue to be available throughout the fall.

Who enforces this and makes sure that insurers are covering these vaccines for people?

The [California Department of Managed Health Care](#) and the California Department of Insurance regulate health insurance coverage in California. The California Department of Health Care Services share this responsibility for health insurance plans participating in the Medi-Cal program. For questions, contact the Department of Managed Healthcare toll free at 1-888-466-2219.

Can I come to California from another state where vaccines aren't covered or recommended to get my vaccines?

Yes. Non-California residents can receive immunizations in California but should first check with their health insurers whether immunization in California will be covered.

Who is involved in the West Coast Health Alliance?

The West Coast Health Alliance currently includes public health leaders and subject matter experts from the State Public Health Departments of California, Hawaii, Oregon, and Washington.

Will the West Coast Health Alliance continue to produce recommendations on vaccines other than COVID, flu, and RSV?

CDPH and the West Coast Health Alliance first focused on COVID-19, influenza, and RSV guidance. More recently, after the September meeting of the ACIP, CDPH and the Alliance issued a statement about the measles, mumps, rubella, and varicella (MMRV) vaccine and maintaining the option to use it. The Alliance might consider additional immunizations depending on future federal actions. Please see the [Public Health for All](#) web page and [CDPH news releases](#) for updates.

For more information. please visit www.monocounty.ca.gov/HHS or www.cdph.ca.gov/