

# Vaccinations - Expanding Access

## Overview

Our members 18 years of age and older with pharmacy benefits can now go to a participating Express Scripts retail pharmacy to receive different immunizations.

- In Massachusetts, the pharmacist must be registered and licensed to administer the vaccine. Since requirements vary in other states, members should contact their local pharmacy to confirm availability.
- Vaccines are covered with no cost share to the member and a prescription is not required. All costs will be reimbursed to the pharmacist by ESI.
- Members under the age of 18 must receive these vaccines from their doctor at the doctor's office.

The vaccines that can be administered at a retail pharmacy are:

Disease/Condition	Vaccination
Chickenpox	Varivax
Hepatitis A	Havrix
Hepatitis B	Engerix-B, Combivax
HPV	Gardasil <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Covered for females age 9-26 years</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Covered for males ages 9-21</i></li> </ul>
Influenza	Multiple Vaccines see <a href="#">Flu Facts</a>
Measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR)	Priorix, Tresivac, Trimovax
Meningitis	Menactra, Menomune
Pneumonia	Prevanar 13
Polio	IPOL
Shingles	Zostavax <i>Covered for members age 60 years and older*</i>
Tetanus, diphtheria, and whooping cough	Tdap, Infarix, Daptacel, Tripedia

## Alternative Options:

- Members can also continue to get their immunizations at their doctor's office or at an outpatient clinic. The addition of the pharmacy option is intended to **expand** our members' access to these preventive services. Members should contact their pharmacy directly to confirm if a pharmacist is available to administer any of these vaccines.

## Products Impacted

This immunization availability at the pharmacy applies to all Commercial HMO, PPO, POS, Indemnity and Access Blue plans with pharmacy benefits and Medicare Supplemental plans with pharmacy benefits, including Medex and Managed Blue for Seniors. This does not apply to Medicare Advantage plans.

*\*The FDA has approved Zostavax (shingles) for people age **50 and over**, however, BCBS follows **CDC guidelines** and their recommendation has not changed as of yet.*

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## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: *How can I find a pharmacy to get my vaccine?***

A: Coverage is available at all participating Express Scripts pharmacies in Massachusetts and some other states; however, the pharmacy needs to carry the vaccine and have a pharmacist on staff who is licensed and registered to administer it. Contact your local pharmacy directly to inquire.

A member can search for Express Scripts participating pharmacies on [bluecrossma.com/pharmacy](http://bluecrossma.com/pharmacy). Click on **Pharmacy Networks**, and select the **Express Scripts pharmacy locator tool**. The member will then need to check with the pharmacy directly to see if this service is available from a pharmacist.

**Q: *My pharmacy carries the vaccine but does not have a pharmacist who can administer it. Can I pick up the vaccine and bring it to my doctor's office to be administered?***

A: You should discuss this directly with your healthcare provider and pharmacist. Vaccines have storage and handling requirements that must be followed.

**Q: *I do not have my pharmacy benefit through Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, what are my options for getting a vaccine?***

A: Coverage is provided under your medical benefits when the vaccine is provided in a doctor's office, outpatient clinic, [Limited Service Clinic](#) (like CVS MinuteClinic®), or [Urgent Care Center](#). You should also check with your Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM) regarding coverage from a retail pharmacy.

**Q: *Why can't my child who is under 18 years of age get his/her vaccines at the pharmacy?***

A: The schedule of recommended immunizations for children and adolescents is complicated and involves many immunizations. Providers follow the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention and the American Academy of Pediatrics and these are frequently updated. As a result, your child's primary care provider is in the best position to know exactly what they need and to be able to keep track of all the immunizations they've had. This is important to make sure your child completes each set of immunizations for each vaccine (for example, three doses of the HPV vaccine need to be given, spaced over 6 months) and to make sure they don't receive an unnecessary shot. It is also helpful to have a full history when school, camp, or college forms need to be completed.