

Notice to community pharmacies for enrolment in Alberta COVID-19 Pharmacy Immunization Program

Since December 2020, Alberta Health, through Alberta Health Services, has been distributing COVID-19 vaccine through a phased immunization program with the goal to immunize Albertans as safely and effectively as possible.

Community pharmacies are able to safely, efficiently and effectively administer a high number of vaccine doses to Albertans, as demonstrated by the outstanding service delivery during the influenza immunization campaign. Recognizing this, community pharmacies will be the primary service provider for Alberta's COVID 19 vaccination efforts.

Pharmacy participation will initially launch in Edmonton, Calgary and Red Deer, due to limited quantity of vaccines at this time. Alberta Health will select participating pharmacies in these areas based on service needs and history of immunization capacity from 2020/2021 Influenza Immunization Program reporting.

Expansion of the pharmacy immunization program to more pharmacies will occur following the initial program launch in coordination with increasing vaccine supply. To facilitate this program expansion, pharmacies are now asked to enrol in the program to be considered for participation in administering COVID-19 immunizations more broadly to Albertans.

Participating pharmacy names, locations and contact details will be published on the Alberta Blue Cross and Alberta Health websites for access by the public.

Enrolment process

Pharmacies who wish to be considered for enrolment can access the required materials on the Alberta Blue Cross

website at www.ab.bluecross.ca/providers/providers-home.php. The Pharmacy provider drop-down houses the COVID-19 Pharmacy Immunization Program registration information. Materials will be posted by Friday, February 19, 2021.

Once posted, the following materials are required for enrolment:

1. Alberta COVID-19 Pharmacy Immunization Program – enrollment form, and
2. Alberta COVID-19 Pharmacy Immunization Program – document and attachments.

Vaccine storage and handling information

Pharmacies will NOT be required to have an ultra-low temperature freezer capable of storing mRNA vaccines below -20c or -80c. The vaccine will be distributed to pharmacies in a thawing or thawed state for eligible patients through wholesale distribution channels.

The particular vaccine supplied to pharmacies may change based on vaccine supply.

Claims process and vaccine supply

Details surrounding claiming processes and vaccine supply will be provided directly to those stores who meet qualifications when supply allows for their participation in the program.

Pharmacies will be notified by Alberta Blue Cross when they can begin to provide COVID vaccines. Claims for COVID-19 vaccine immunization will be eligible for \$25.00 per service.

For assistance with benefit or claim inquiries, please contact an Alberta Blue Cross Pharmacy Services Provider Relations contact centre representative at

780-498-8370 (Edmonton and area)

403-294-4041 (Calgary and area)

1-800-361-9632 (toll free)

FAX 780-498-8406 (Edmonton and area)

FAX 1-877-305-9911 (toll free)

Alberta Blue Cross offers online access to current Pharmacy Benefacts and supplemental claiming information to assist with the submission of your direct bill drug claims.

Visit ab.bluecross.ca/providers/pharmacy-home.php

