

Federal Retail Pharmacy Program for COVID-19 Vaccination

COLLABORATION to increase vaccine access

[The Federal Retail Pharmacy Program for COVID-19 Vaccination](#) is a collaboration between the federal government, states and territories, and 21 national pharmacy partners and independent pharmacy networks. The program aims to increase access to COVID-19 vaccine across the country and represents one component of the Administration's strategy to expand access to vaccines for the American public.

The program is rolling out incrementally based on the available supply of COVID-19, with select retail pharmacy locations providing COVID-19 vaccine to eligible individuals. This phase of the program is designed to engage the system in a limited way to ensure the infrastructure is ready for large scale implementation when vaccine supply increases. Individuals who are eligible for vaccination in their state and are interested in getting vaccinated at their local pharmacy should check the pharmacy's website to find out if vaccine is available. Most pharmacy partners are using online scheduling systems to schedule vaccination visits for eligible individuals based on their limited available vaccine supply. **It's important to know that early on, your local pharmacy may not have vaccine or may have very limited supply.**

How it works:

- In the early stages of the program, a limited number of retail pharmacies nationwide are receiving COVID-19 vaccine supply directly from the federal government to vaccinate priority groups at no cost.
- The program will begin with per capita allocations by each jurisdiction that will be divided among the selected pharmacy partners based on number of stores and reach.
- As part of the program launch, CDC is also providing pharmacy partners with targeted allocations to ensure equitable distribution across all states and territories.
- The vaccine allocation provided *for this program* is **separate** from the weekly allocation going to states and territories. It is meant to enhance the current vaccination efforts in states and territories.
- Pharmacy partners will vaccinate individuals who are currently eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccine in their state or territory.
- States and territories will be able to see what federal retail pharmacies have vaccine and how much they have to ensure the program helps meet each jurisdiction's vaccination goals.
- As the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program rolls out, Federal, state, local, and territorial *public health agencies will continue to lead community outreach and education* by encouraging individuals to get vaccinated.
- When vaccine availability increases, the program will expand to ultimately include all 40,000+ enrolled pharmacies.

Program benefits:

As the program scales up to eventually include COVID-19 vaccination at all 40,000+ retail locations, it will:

- Make it easier for individuals to access free COVID-19 vaccine at a local pharmacy from a trusted, trained, and familiar source
- Decrease the burden on state and local health departments

Additional Support

In addition to the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program highlighted above, CDC is offering the **Pharmacy Transfer Program**. The program allows states and territories to transfer their allocated vaccine doses to federal pharmacy partners to help vaccinate target populations in their communities. As the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program begins implementation, jurisdictions may choose to change the number of doses they transfer to pharmacy partners.