



Federal Retail Pharmacy Program Updates

Sitio web en Español para participantes del programa de vacunas COVID

Vaccine program updates

Digital Data Logger requirements

Now that supply chain issues for digital data loggers (DDLs) have been mostly resolved; CDC is asking that all COVID-19 Vaccination and VFC (vaccine for children) providers obtain DDLs at this time. With an understanding that this process can take time, there is an expectation that all provider locations where COVID-19 or VFC vaccine is stored or administered, including during transport, have and appropriately use DDLs in their facilities for COVID-19 and VFC vaccines, in accordance with CDC's [Vaccine Storage and Handling Toolkit \(cdc.gov\)](#) (COVID-19 Addendum) and the VFC Operations Guide, respectively.

You may not need an expensive cloud-based system. DDLs meeting the requirement can be purchased online from manufacturers with the entry point starting at \$50 to monitor one storage unit.

DDLs are considered the “gold standard” for monitoring storage temperatures for all vaccines. They ensure temperature excursions are detected, including the length of time a temperature is out of range, thus making them one of the most advanced devices to ensure vaccines are stored correctly and protected from unnecessary waste. Having a DDL provides valuable data that can save vaccine, prevent ineffective vaccine from being administered, and prevent the need to revaccinate affected patients. CDC is aware of the challenges providers have had purchasing digital data loggers (DDL) due to high market demand and low supply. CDC offers the following temperature monitoring device (TMD) allowances for awardees and providers who are unable to acquire a DDL. These allowances are ranked in order of preference.

Please note that each TMD has different temperature reading requirements. Providers should ensure a DDL is obtained as soon as available. These allowances will be rescinded once the market returns to normal. Please email COVIDVaccines@AmerisourceBergen.com if you need more information.

Oral antivirals program updates

FDA extends shelf life of COVID antiviral Paxlovid

Melissa Jenco, AAP News, April 7, 2022

The shelf life of some lots of COVID-19 antiviral Paxlovid has been extended from nine months to 12 months. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authorized the change for certain lots if they have been stored properly. Lots FL4516, FL4517 and FR7229 with an expiration date of July 31, 2022, can be used through Oct. 31, 2022. Lot FR9088 with an expiration date of Aug. 31, 2022, can be used through Nov. 30, 2022.

Paxlovid from Pfizer is a combination of nirmatrelvir and ritonavir. The FDA granted emergency use authorization of the antiviral to treat non-hospitalized people ages 12 years and older weighing at least 40 kilograms with mild to moderate COVID-19 who are [at risk of progressing to severe disease](#). Serious adverse events and medication errors potentially related to Paxlovid must be reported to the [FDA's MedWatch program](#).

Resources

- [AAP interim guidance Management Strategies in Children and Adolescents with Mild to Moderate COVID-19](#)
- [Paxlovid fact sheet for health care providers](#)
- [Information from Pfizer about Paxlovid](#)
- [National Institutes of Health COVID-19 treatment guidelines](#)

Guidance for pharmacies: Payers returning oral antivirals copay

Some prescription benefit plans are returning copays for oral antivirals. Pharmacies cannot charge patients for therapeutics. If a plan returns a copay, pharmacies can bill as cash through the Elevate Cash BIN and/or contact the payor.

Participating pharmacies should **not** charge patients or collect co-pays for COVID-19 oral antivirals.

- CMS will provide a list of pharmacies that have provider agreements with the USG to dispense the drug in compliance with the terms and conditions of authorization. CMS will provide a list of these pharmacies, including National Provider Identifier (NPI), on the Health Plan Management Site as soon as it is available.
- Pay dispensing fees: While certain USG-procured oral antiviral drug(s) will be made available at no cost to pharmacies, the procurement does not include payment of a dispensing fee to pharmacies. CMS encourages Part D sponsors to pay a dispensing fee to pharmacies that submit claims for these drugs. No ingredient cost can be paid on these claims.
- Part D sponsors should not charge enrollee cost sharing on dispensing fees paid to the pharmacies.

- Sponsors should consult NCPDP Emergency Preparedness Guidance for “Billing for Reimbursement of a Free Product (No associated cost) with No Administration Fee” as they prepare to implement these changes.

[Learn more](#)

Reordering oral antivirals

If your pharmacy has received oral antivirals as part of the program and would like to receive more please contact us at COVIDVaccines@AmerisourceBergen.com. You will need to request oral antivirals each time you would like to receive additional courses.

Participating in the oral antivirals program

If your pharmacy is a participant of the vaccine program and would also like to participate in the oral antivirals program, contact the Elevate Enrollments team at ElevateEnrollments@AmerisourceBergen.com.

Questions? Continue to work with your Business Coach or Sales Executive or send questions to COVIDVaccines@AmerisourceBergen.com. Please include your pharmacy name and NCPDP on all communications. This information will help us expedite our response to you.

Resources

Pediatric Operational Planning Guide

In anticipation of a pediatric vaccine for the under 5 population, CDC has updated the Pediatric Operational Planning Guide. The updated guide has been posted here: [COVID-19 Vaccination for Children | CDC](#). The direct link to the PDF of the guide is here: [Pediatric-Planning-Guide.pdf \(cdc.gov\)](#). As more information becomes available, we will add it to this newsletter.

COVID-19 Treatment Marketing Materials

Let your patients know that you have COVID-19 treatments available at your pharmacy with new print and digital marketing materials. Visit the “Coronavirus” library in [Brand Central Station](#) and [SOCi](#) to access the materials.



New to the oral antivirals program? Download these resources!

- [Implementation Guide](#)
- [FAQ](#)

Surveys, reporting, reminders

Survey: Minimum Age Field on Vaccines.gov

Please complete this [brief survey](#) to tell us the minimum patient age your pharmacy can vaccinate. This information will be critical as Vaccines.gov prepares to inform parents and caregivers where they can take children under the age of 5 to get COVID-19 vaccinations, once that vaccine becomes available.

Survey: Interest in administering EVUSHELD™

Please tell us if you are interested in administering [EVUSHELD™](#) through this [quick survey](#).

Survey: Partnering with Long-Term Care facilities

The CDC has asked if any pharmacies participating in FRPP are currently partnering with any Long-Term Care Facilities, or if they would be able to. Please take this [brief survey](#).

Survey: Vaccinating children under the age of 5

CDC is asking that pharmacies indicate their interest in vaccinating pediatric patients under the age of 5. Please respond using this [brief survey](#).

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This email was sent to melliott@amerisourcebergen.com because you have an account with or are a valued partner of AmerisourceBergen.

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