



# Getting Ready for the 2024-2025 COVID-19 Vaccines

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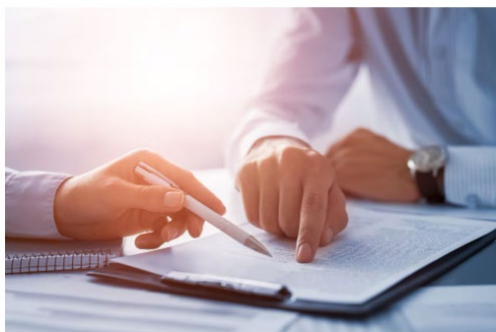
Los Angeles County Vaccine Preventable  
Disease Control Program



# What we'll cover

- New 2024-2025 COVID-19 vaccine recommendations
- Addressing billing and reimbursement challenges for COVID-19 vaccines
- Hear from facility and pharmacy partners

## Evidence Based Recommendations Process





# 2024-2025 COVID-19 Vaccine Recommendations



# 2024-2025 COVID-19 Vaccine Recommendations

CDC recommends **everyone ages 6 months and older** receive an updated **2024-2025 COVID-19 vaccine** to protect against the potentially serious outcomes of COVID-19 this fall and winter whether or not they have ever previously been vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine





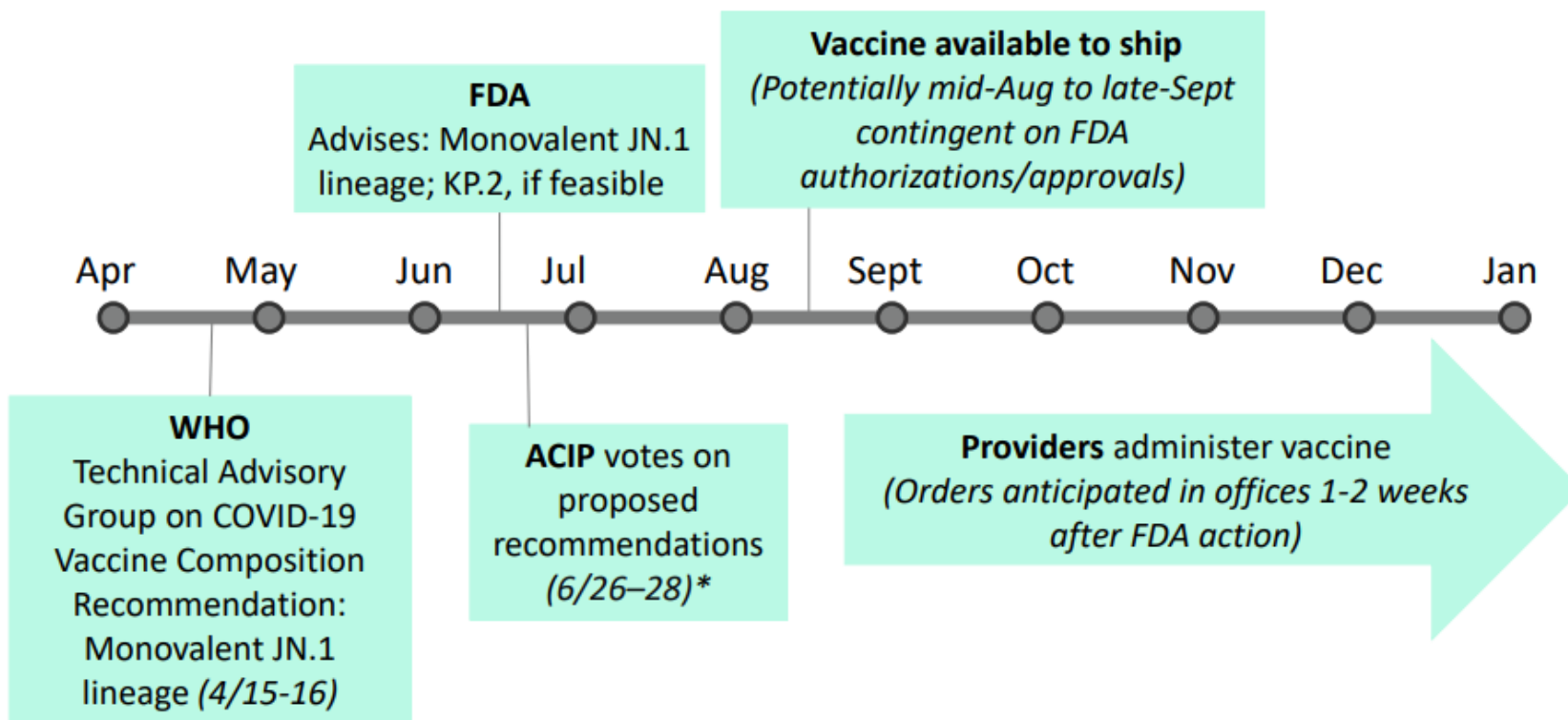
## **Important 2024-2025 COVID-19 Vaccine Details**

Updated COVID-19 vaccines will be available from Moderna, Pfizer and Novavax later this year

Clinical considerations and guidance will be forthcoming

**It is safe to receive COVID-19 and flu vaccine at the same visit**

# Prospective 2024-2025 COVID-19 Vaccine Timeline



\*CDC publishes MMWR policy note following ACIP and FDA action (potentially late August to late September).

\*\*CDC updates COVID-19 Vaccine Interim Clinical Considerations immediately following FDA action.



# Importance of Vaccination

## RESP WATCH

Summary of Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LAC DPH) Respiratory Disease Surveillance

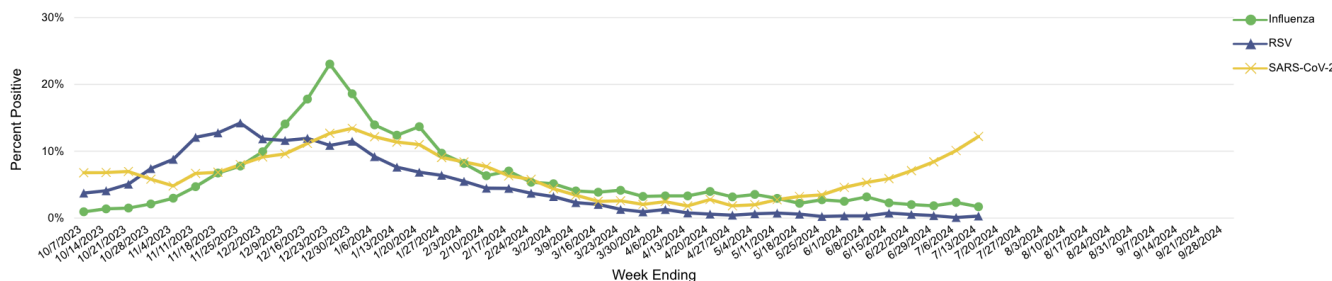


MMWR Week: 28  
Ending on: 7/13/2024

### Respiratory Surveillance At-A-Glance

Virology	Illness	Severity
<p><b>In MMWR week 28 :</b></p> <p>↓ <b>1.6%</b> of specimens tested for influenza at LAC sentinel surveillance laboratories were positive.</p> <p>↑ <b>12.1%</b> of specimens tested SARS-CoV-2 at LAC sentinel surveillance laboratories were positive.</p> <p>→ <b>0.2%</b> of specimens tested for RSV at LAC sentinel surveillance laboratories were positive.</p>	<p><b>In MMWR week 28 :</b></p> <p>→ <b>2.5%</b> of ED visits were for influenza- like illness.</p> <p>↓ <b>2.7%</b> of ED visits were for COVID-19.</p> <p><i>Influenza- like illness and COVID-19 are not mutually exclusive</i></p>	<p><b>In MMWR week 27 :</b></p> <p>Pneumonia, influenza, or COVID-19 accounted for <b>9.6%</b> of deaths registered in LAC</p> <p>Since the start of the 2023-2024 respiratory season, <b>113</b> influenza- coded deaths have been identified through death certificate data.</p>

Percentage of Respiratory Specimens Testing Positive by Viral Etiology, Los Angeles County Sentinel Surveillance Laboratories, 2023-24 Influenza Season



Microsoft Power BI

<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/respwatch/>



# Addressing Billing & Reimbursement Challenges for COVID-19 Vaccine





## Barriers for Facilities

LTC facilities have reported experiencing barriers to billing and reimbursement for administering COVID-19 vaccines for their patients/residents

- Confusion around when LTC pharmacies can and cannot bill directly
- Confusion around the type of coverage a resident has
- Challenges with understanding Medicare coverage

## COVID-19 Vaccine Coverage

- Medicare, Medicaid (Medi-Cal) and most private health insurance plans cover COVID-19 vaccination without cost sharing
- Medicare
  - Part A: hospital insurance
  - Part B: medical insurance

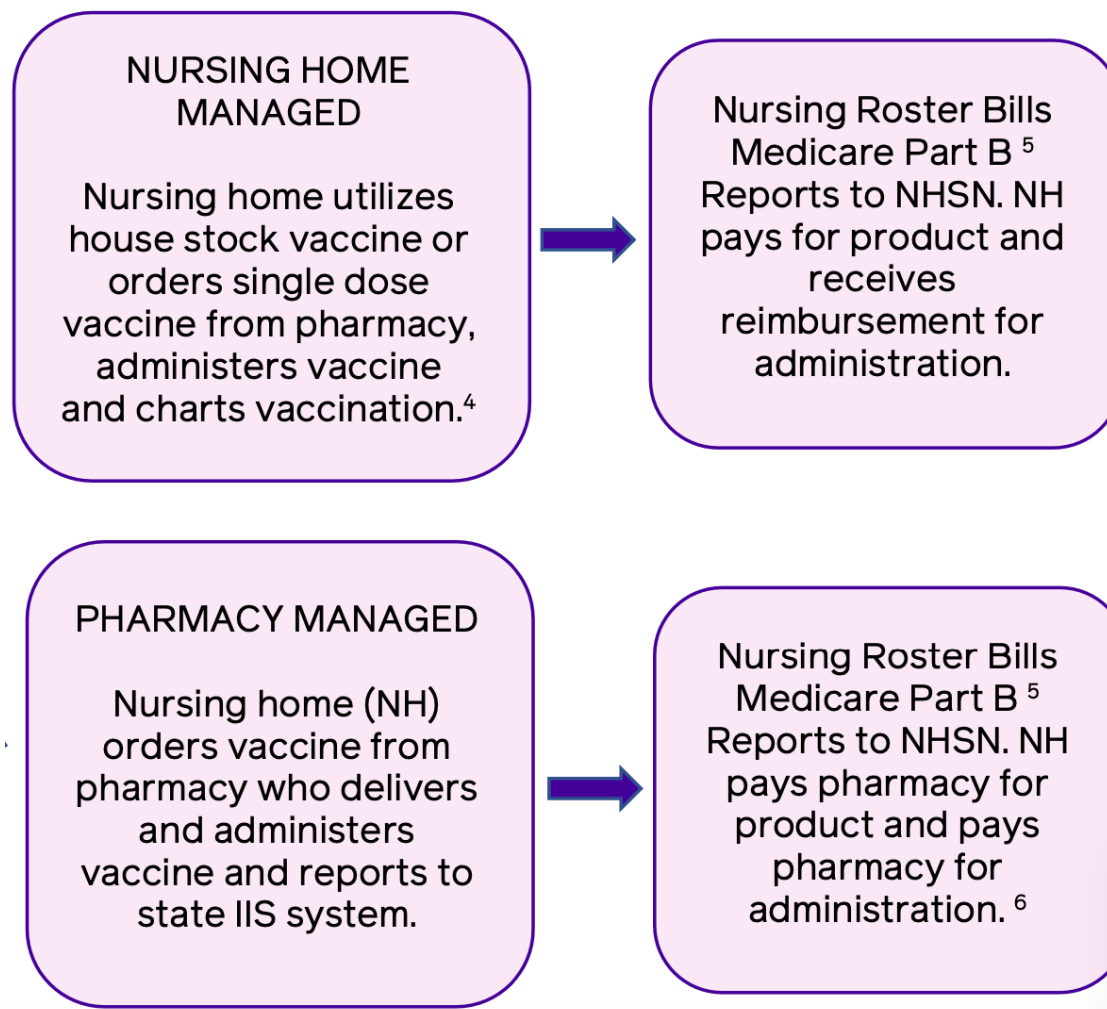




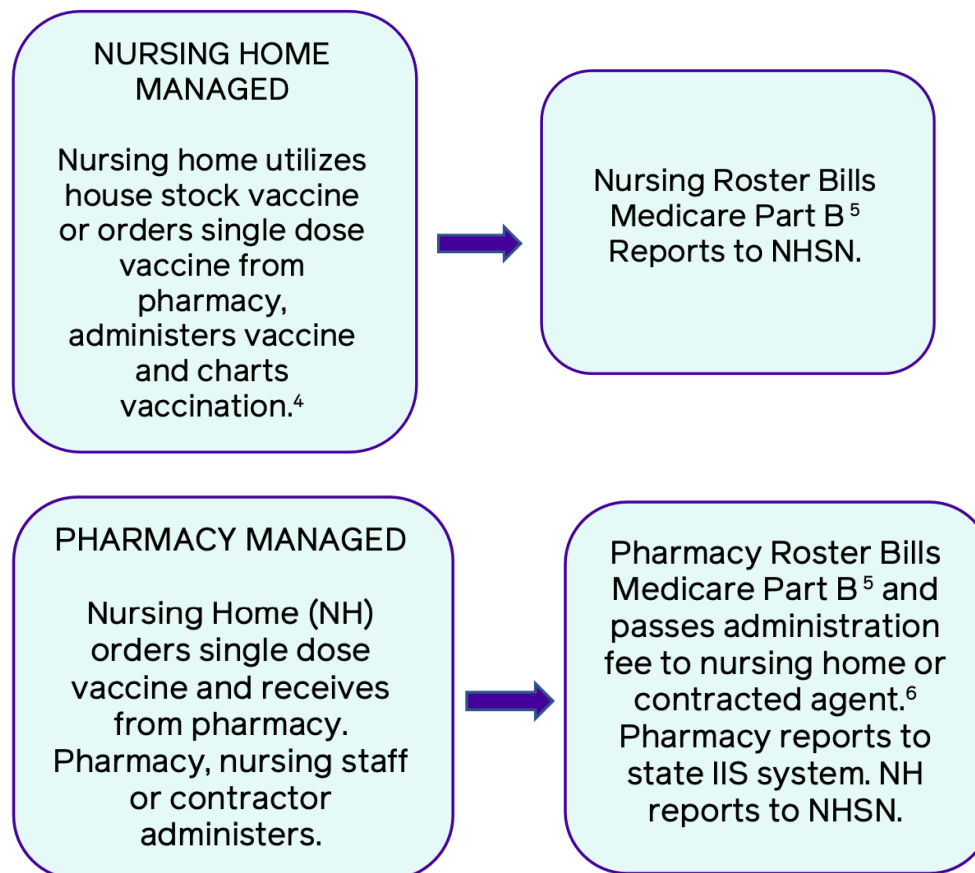
## Medicare Coverage

- For SNF residents, vaccine payment depends on
  - Type of vaccine (some covered by Part B, others by Part D)
  - If patient is using Part A coverage
- Part B covers COVID-19 vaccines with no cost sharing
- Vaccine can be billed by facility or LTC pharmacy, depending on whether patient is in Part A stay

## Billing Flexibility – Part A Stay (includes hospice)

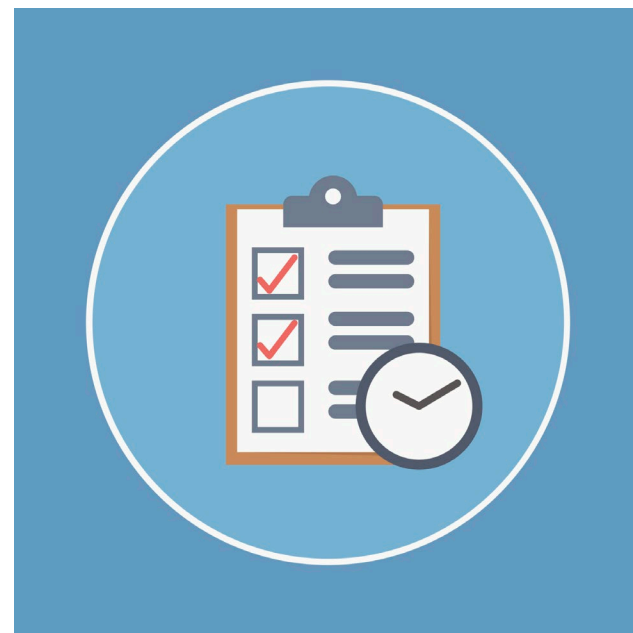


## Billing Flexibility – Non-Part A Stay



## Medicare Advantage Plans

- Medicare Advantage is also known as Medicare Part C
- Coverage would be subject to requirements of the patient's managed care plan (in-network)
- Check with plan for coverage details





## Medi-Cal Coverage

- COVID-19 vaccines are covered by Medi-Cal
- Administration fee is reimbursable as a medical benefit
- Providers must procure vaccine (also a reimbursable cost)
- DHCS has noted they will continue to carve out the cost of COVID-19 vaccines and associated administration fees from the Medi-Cal managed care delivery system and will reimburse providers under Medi-Cal fee-for-service (until at least 12/31/24)\*

\*See DHCS communication to Medi-Cal Providers: <https://mcweb.apps.prd.cammis.medi-cal.ca.gov/news/32469.01>



## Additional Billing/Reimbursement Resources

- CMS SNF Fact Sheet – Billing Medicare for Respiratory Vaccines: [2024.03 - SNF FINAL 508.pdf \(cms.gov\)](#)
- Medicare Billing for COVID-19 Shot Administration: <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/payment/covid-19-vaccine-toolkit/medicare-billing-covid-19-vaccine-shot-administration>
- For CMS price and billing codes, see: <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/payment/part-b-drugs/vaccine-pricing> (updated annually)
- Notable Flu and COVID-19 Vaccine Points: [https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.ascp.com/resource/resmgr/files/notable\\_flu\\_&\\_cov\\_id-19\\_vacci.pdf](https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.ascp.com/resource/resmgr/files/notable_flu_&_cov_id-19_vacci.pdf)
- CDC Immunization and Vaccine Product Summaries for three common causes of respiratory illness (COVID, flu, RSV): <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/php/info-by-product/index.html>





**Skilled Nursing Facility Experience:  
Dominique Williams  
Maple Healthcare Center**





## Long-term Care Pharmacy Experience: Ruby Balin, Third Party Billing Manager Skilled Nursing Pharmacy





Questions?



