



Frequently Asked Questions: Adult 317 Vaccinations

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❖ What is 317 vaccine?

Section 317 of the Public Health Service Act authorizes the federal purchase of vaccines to vaccinate children, adolescents, and adults. Over its 50-year history, 317-purchased vaccine has been directed towards meeting the needs of priority populations; most recently this has been uninsured adults. 317 vaccine plays a critical role in achieving national immunization coverage targets and reductions in disease.

❖ Who can be vaccinated with 317 vaccines?

Uninsured or underinsured adults aged 19 years and older.

Note: Fully insured individuals 19 years and older seeking vaccines during public health response activities, with approval. Provider offices must reach out to the Maine Immunization Program BEFORE administering vaccine for the following circumstances:

- Outbreak response
- Post-exposure prophylaxis
- Disaster relief efforts
- Mass vaccination campaigns or exercises for public health preparedness
- Individuals in correctional facilities and jails

❖ What are the current vaccines offered through the Maine Immunization Program through 317 funding?

- Hepatitis A – *Vaqta, Havrix*
- Hepatitis B – *Heplisav-B*
- Hepatitis A&B - *Twinrix*
- Tdap – *Adacel, Boostrix*
- Meningococcal ACWY – *Menveo, Menquadfi*
- Meningococcal B – *Trumenba, Bexsero*
- HPV – *Gardasil9*
- Pneumococcal – *Prevnar 20*
- Zoster - *Shingrix*
- MMR – *MMR-II*
- Varicella – *Varivax*

❖ Do I have to stock all 317 vaccines, or can our facility choose which vaccines would be appropriate?

No, facilities do not have to stock all available 317 vaccines. It is best to take into consideration your service population and determine which vaccines would be utilized prior to expiration.

❖ Moving forward, what other vaccines may potentially be offered under the 317 program?

COVID-19 and RSV. This will depend on the community needs and funding available.

❖ Why are adult 317 vaccinations available now through MIP?

The Adult Vaccination Program through MIP is looking to expand vaccination coverage among underserved adults across the state of Maine. The Maine Immunization Program has supplied a limited number of adult vaccinations to Maine providers for over a decade. These 317 vaccine resources have been underutilized in the past. This program has evolved over time to fill gaps and address priorities in our vaccine programs. There are many gaps in underinsured and uninsured adults. Responsible stewardship of vaccine programs and the federal funds used to

support them mean that these resources must be allocated to areas of greatest need and not subsidize private insurers.

❖ **What is CDC definition of under-insured and fully insured?**

The terms “underinsured” and “fully insured” are defined as follows:

- **Underinsured:** A person who has health insurance, but the coverage does not include vaccines or a person whose insurance covers only selected vaccines.
- **Fully Insured:** Anyone with insurance that covers the cost of vaccine, even if the insurance includes a high deductible or co-pay, or if a claim for the cost of the vaccine and its administration would be denied for payment by the insurance carrier because the plan’s deductible had not been met.

❖ **What can 317 vaccines be used for? What can they NOT be used for?**

317 vaccine funds **may** be used to vaccinate the following:

- Uninsured or underinsured adults 19 years and older

Providers may **not** administer 317 vaccines to:

- Adults with Medicare Parts B or D (unless desired vaccination is not a covered vaccine)
- Adults with Medicaid coverage for vaccines
- Any person under the age of 19 years old
- Any fully insured adult, including but not limited to:
 - Fully insured adults seen in STD/HIV clinics or drug treatment centers
 - Fully insured adults at high risk for acquiring Hepatitis A
 - Fully insured adults with a high co-pay or deductible
 - Fully insured students receiving vaccines for college entry at Public Health Clinics or College health facilities
 - Fully insured adults in low medical access areas
 - Fully insured adults in LTCs/eldercare
 - Fully insured “high risk” occupational groups (e.g. EMS, first responders, health care workers) for hepatitis A or B or other diseases
 - Fully insured adults receiving vaccines as part of a community wide outreach event (including mobile vans and health fairs)

In limited circumstances and with PRIOR approval from the Maine Immunization Program, fully insured individuals seeking vaccines during public health response activities may be vaccinated with 317 vaccines. These circumstances include:

- Outbreak response (regardless of insurance status)
- Post-exposure prophylaxis
- Disaster relief efforts
- Mass vaccination campaigns or exercises for public health preparedness
- Individuals in correctional facilities and jails (except as outlined in VFC Operations Guide)

❖ **Some of our fully insured clients have very high deductibles; can we use 317 vaccine funds to immunize them if they have not met their deductible?**

No, 317 vaccines may not be used to routinely vaccinate any fully insured individual. 317 vaccines may only be used to vaccinate uninsured or under-insured individuals whose insurance does not cover vaccination.

❖ **If a vaccine is not covered by Medicare Part B. May I vaccinate adults who has Medicare Part B with 317 funded vaccine? What if the vaccine is not covered by Medicare Part D?**

Medicare Part B does not cover all vaccines.

If the individual does not have Medicare Part D coverage, then he/she is considered underinsured for those vaccines and may receive 317 funded vaccines.

❖ **Can we use 317 vaccines for non-Medicare covered vaccines?**

All Medicare Part D plans are required to cover ACIP-recommended vaccines not covered under Medicare Part B. Thus, if the individual has both Medicare Part B and Part D, he/she is considered fully insured for vaccines and may not receive 317 funded vaccines.

❖ **Can we use 317 vaccines for immigrants and refugees?**

Many immigrants and refugees lack health insurance, making it hard for them to get the care they need. However, some refugees are eligible for MaineCare, or other special programs such as Refugee Medical Assistance. If these programs are not available to the individual, they do not have employer sponsored health insurance, then they are considered uninsured and may be vaccinated with 317 funded vaccines.

❖ **If I am currently a VFC Provider and would like to also receive 317 vaccines for my adult patients, will I need a separate storage unit or can I store my VFC and 317 vaccines together in one unit?**

VFC and 317 vaccines may be stored together in one storage unit, however, they must be separated in the unit and clearly labeled.

- 317 vaccines cannot be stored in dormitory-style units at any time
- 317 vaccines must always be stored under proper storage conditions
- Refrigerator and freezer vaccine storage units and temperature monitoring equipment and practices must meet Maine Immunization Program storage and handling recommendations and requirements
- Providers must return all spoiled/expired public vaccines to CDC's centralized vaccine distributor

❖ **Can 317 vaccines be shared with privately stocked vaccines within our facility?**

No- 317 vaccines, VFC vaccines and privately purchased vaccines are not interchangeable.

❖ **If I am a VFC provider and have an active provider agreement, will I need a separate provider agreement to receive 317 adult vaccines?**

There is a separate enrollment form for adult 317 vaccines.

- If a provider currently has an approved VFC provider agreement- they do not need to complete a second provider agreement for adults.
- If the provider site is not currently enrolled with VFC- they will need to complete the provider agreement and enrollment requirements for VFC, as well.

Providers are not required to be active in VFC to receive adult vaccines, but they must be enrolled in the program.

❖ **I'm a VFC provider and follow the ACIP vaccination schedule. Do I need to follow the same schedule for Adult 317 vaccines?**

For the vaccines identified and agreed upon in the provider agreement, providers are required to comply with immunization schedules, dosages, and contraindications that are established by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and included in the Adult program unless:

- In the provider's medical judgment, and in accordance with accepted medical practice, the provider deems such compliance to be medically inappropriate for the adult;
- The requirements contradict state law, including laws pertaining to religious and other

exemptions.

❖ **How long do Adult Program records need to be kept?**

All records related to the adult program must be maintained for a minimum of three years and, upon request, must be able to make these records available for review. Adult records include, but are not limited to, adult screening and eligibility documentation, billing records, medical records that verify receipt of vaccine, vaccine ordering records, and vaccine purchase and accountability records.

❖ **I know a provider cannot charge a fee for 317 vaccines, but can they charge a vaccine administration fee?**

Yes, providers can charge an administration fee, but it cannot exceed the fee cap of \$21.58 per vaccine dose.

❖ **Do I have to report 317 vaccinations in ImmPact?**

Yes, all vaccine received from the State of Maine must be entered into ImmPact within 5 days of administration.

❖ **Do sites submit adult vaccine order through ImmPact?**

No, there is a prebook process in place because funding for adult vaccination is limited. During this prebook process, vaccines are requested and ImmPact will place an order each month. Vaccines will then be delivered directly to the provider site.

❖ **How does the prebook process work?**

Twice a year, in March and September, the Maine Immunization program will reach out to sites to gauge interest. Semi-annual budgets will be created, and sites will then determine the number of vaccines they would like to order in the following 6 months (April – September and October through March). On the second Wednesday of each month, ImmPact will place the adult orders and they will be shipped directly to the provider site. For more information, please contact the Maine Immunization Program at (207) 287-3746 or email ImmunizeME.DHHS@maine.gov.

❖ **I am interested in administering adult 317 immunizations at my site. How do I enroll in the adult vaccine program to be able to receive these vaccines?**

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