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Provider Alert

Correction: How to Increase COVID-19 Vaccination Acceptance Rates

May 26, 2021

This alert was originally sent on May 24, 2021. Please refer to this copy which contains corrected information.

Thank you to all of the providers who have either become COVID-19 **vaccinators through ImmuNet**, have **hosted vaccine clinics by partnering with pharmacies or a mobile clinic**, or are working with BHA for **vaccinations at their residential or congregate living facility sites.** These efforts for making vaccinations a one-stop process, located where someone is already receiving care from a trusted source, are critical for getting more of those we serve vaccinated. Vaccination rates for individuals with behavioral health diagnoses are currently lagging far behind the general population. The Maryland Department of Health's Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) will be tracking vaccination rates of the population using the Public Behavioral Health System, and this alert includes methods providers can use to increase their vaccination acceptance rates.

1. ImmuNet:

    To register to become a vaccinator, find the ImmuNet Quick Reference Guides at: https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/OIDEOR/IMMUN/Pages/quick_ref_guides.asp. Email questions about the program to mdh.mdimmunet@maryland.gov or call 410-767-6606 Monday-Friday 8am to 5pm. Families and staff are also eligible for vaccination.

    Providers can submit claims for COVID-19 vaccine administration. While the federal government provides the vaccine itself for free, providers can submit claims for their administration of COVID-19 vaccines.

Providers who are paneled with an MCO must bill the patient's MCO for vaccine administration, or, if not paneled with an MCO, medical practitioners would bill through eMedicaid for Medicaid recipients. However, in Maryland, behavioral health providers

are "carved out" and directed to bill the ASO. This alert pertains to these providers who bill through the ASO, Optum, Maryland.

COVID-19 vaccines should be administered as soon as providers become eligible and receive supplies. Depending on the provider type listed below, claims may be submitted immediately or may need to be held until setup is complete.

No authorization is required. All claims for administration of the vaccine should be submitted using only one ICD-10-CM code: **Z23, Encounter for immunization,** with any place of service (POS). The service will only be billable on the CMS 1500 or 837P. Claims will be payable under both Medicaid and Uninsured.

Presently, the following Behavioral Health Providers with the following category of services can be paid - PT 15, 24, 27, 32, 50, 54, CC, 94, MT and MC. Providers will be alerted when Provider Type PR has been added to the eligible provider types.

- Further information regarding billing and reimbursement for administration of the vaccine can be found in a Maryland Department of Health transmittal, here
- Requirements for administration of the vaccine are detailed here
- The COVID-19 Vaccine and Infusion Code Fee Schedule is posted here

2. Hosting COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics On-Site with a Pharmacy or Mobile Clinic Partner:

   If you are interested in hosting a vaccine clinic by having a pharmacy or mobile clinic come on-site, contact John Watson at john.watson@maryland.gov.

3. COVID-19 Vaccination at Residential or Congregate Living Facility Sites. BHA is assessing the vaccination needs of Adult Group Homes, Residential Substance Use Treatment Facilities, and Residential Living Facilities. To host a vaccine clinic, please complete the following survey found here. Any provider who has already submitted a survey does not need to resubmit the survey. For any questions contact Anne Claggett at anne.claggett@maryland.gov.

Additional Information:

- To find a vaccination clinic at a hospital, local health department, or pharmacy, go to coronavirus.maryland.gov/pages/vaccine#locator.
- To register at a mass vaccination site, go to coronavirus.maryland.gov/pages/vaccine, or register by phone through the

state's COVID-19 vaccination support center at **1-855-MD-GOVAX (1-855-634-6829).**

- BHA will host a new webinar on vaccines, Updates on the Vaccines and Vaccine Hesitancy, on **Friday, June 11, 10-11 AM**. [Register here].
- Previous BHA vaccine webinars are also posted on the [BHA COVID-19 page].

Please spread the word that Maryland now has a **Vaccination Lottery.** Maryland residents 18 and older who have received a COVID-19 vaccination in Maryland at any time are eligible to win. No registration or entry is needed. Each day from May 25 through July 3, one winner will be randomly drawn to win a $40,000 prize. The $2 Million VaxCash Promotion wraps up on the Fourth of July when a final drawing will award one winner a grand prize of $400,000. More info is available [here].

Thank you,

Optum Maryland Team

Please visit our website at [maryland.optum.com] for provider resources, online training, and more information.