



**AmeriHealth Caritas**<sup>™</sup>  
District of Columbia

**To:** AmeriHealth Caritas District of Columbia Providers  
**Date:** October 14, 2024  
**Subject:** Remind Patients to Get Vaccinated this Fall and Winter

Dear Provider:

Please remind your patients to get the updated 2024-2025 COVID-19 and flu vaccines to protect against severe illness this fall and winter.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), data continues to show the importance of vaccination to protect against severe outcomes of COVID-19 and flu, including hospitalization and death. Reducing the spread of respiratory illness is critical for protecting vulnerable populations and reducing strain on health care systems.

The CDC recommends that everyone ages 6 months and older, including people who are pregnant, breastfeeding, trying to get pregnant, or who might become pregnant in the future, receive the updated 2024-2025 COVID-19 vaccine and the updated 2024-2025 flu vaccine. It is safe to receive COVID-19 and flu vaccines at the same visit. It is especially important that the following groups of people who are at high risk of potentially serious outcomes from the flu and COVID-19 get vaccinated as soon as they are able:

- Pregnant people.
- Adults 65 years of age and older.
- Children younger than five years old.
- People of any age with certain chronic health conditions including asthma, diabetes, heart disease, cancer, and HIV/AIDS.

RSV is another seasonal respiratory virus that is highly contagious and most often affects infants. As applicable, please encourage patients who fit in the following groups to receive an RSV vaccine:

- Pregnant people between 32 and 36 weeks of pregnancy.
- Everyone ages 75 and older or adults ages 60-74 who are at increased risk of severe RSV disease.
- Infants younger than 8 months if:
  - The mother did not receive an RSV vaccine during pregnancy.
  - The mother's RSV vaccination status is unknown.
  - The infant was born within 14 days of maternal RSV vaccination.
- Some infants and young children 8 through 19 months of age who are at increased risk for severe RSV disease.

AmeriHealth Caritas District of Columbia (DC) enrollees may go to their primary care provider or a pharmacy in our network with a photo ID and an AmeriHealth Caritas DC ID card to receive their vaccinations at no cost. If an enrollee does not know where to get their vaccines, please direct them to call the Community Outreach Solutions team at **202-216-2318**. For help with transportation, they should call **1-800-315-3485** to schedule a ride.

For more information on updated COVID-19 vaccines visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/covid/index.html>.

For more information on updated flu vaccines visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/vaccines/>.

The more information on RSV vaccines, visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/rsv/>.

If you have questions about this communication, please contact your Account Executive or call Provider Services at 202-408-2237.

Sincerely,  
AmeriHealth Caritas DC