

# Advocating for a Universal Adult Vaccine Program in MA Meeting

April 14, 2025

## Resources:

- Find Your Legislator: <https://malegislature.gov/Search/FindMyLegislator>
- [Universal Adult Vaccine Program on Mass.gov](#)
- [Massachusetts Universal Adult Vaccine Program Factsheet](#)

## Q&A:

- **Does this program cover uninsured individuals?**
  - Regardless of insurance status, this program would cover all adults seen at any medical site, whether it is private or at a pharmacy. However, as of now, this proposal would only cover adults aged 18-64. The long term goal would be to have Medicare included as well.
- **Is this program similar to Vaccine for Children (VFC) in terms of using Color?**
  - If you are a local health department using Color, you would continue to do that. There would be no reimbursement necessary - 100% of the vaccine would be covered and you would order all of that through the MIIS just like you do now for pediatrics and uninsured adults. However, you would need to privately purchase vaccines for those 65+ or for any non-respiratory vaccines.
- **Is there any third party billing that is going to happen?**
  - There is no need to do any third party billing if DPH is providing the vaccine. However, you can continue to use third party billing for administrative costs if needed.
- **What is driving support for this proposal right now?**
  - There is nothing specific that is driving support for this proposal now vs. a couple of years ago. This program is aimed at eliminating adult vaccination bottlenecks and increasing vaccination rates; a priority for this administration.
- **What respiratory vaccines will be included in this program?**
  - The initial roll out is primarily for flu, COVID and RSV. There will be an advisory council (made up of providers and insurers that will make recommendations, but ultimately the commissioner will make the decision) that will be making recommendations for vaccines to include in the future. There are lots of vaccines in the adult schedule that we would like to have considered, including PCV (pneumococcal).
- **Will all providers including pharmacies be required to get vaccines for adults through this program?**
  - No, it will not be required to get vaccines through this program. However, payors won't reimburse for vaccines that are provided by the state for free, so this encourages folks to participate.
- **Do specialists need to opt-in? If they choose not to, would everything purchased not be reimbursed?**

- This program will not only benefit PCPs but also specialty providers. Ideally we would want specialty providers enrolled in the program and have them getting vaccines from us.
- **Would IQIP and other follow-up be a part of the equation too?**
  - IQIP is a vaccine quality assurance program that we are required to do for pediatric immunizations and is funded federally by the CDC. We are not sure if we are going to do this with adult vaccines. We will be implementing something similar to what we have on the pediatric side to ensure providers are complying with vaccine standards. We will be using some trust fund dollars to help provide storage and handling site visits for adult providers as well.
- **What happens if an insured patient is seeking a vaccine from an out of network provider? Would the provider still be able to bill the administration fee?**
  - The Adult Vaccine Trust is really just addressing the cost of the vaccine. This is not something we have an answer to at the moment, we would have to check-in with health plans on that.
- **Have you heard insurance companies won't pay for adult vaccines for Fall for COVID/FLU?**
  - I have not heard of this. They are required to cover the vaccine by law.
- **Will this program have the flexibility of choosing between different vaccine providers or will it designate a single provider per vaccine?**
  - Similar to the pediatric program, individuals can get vaccinated at any setting (their PCP, pharmacy, specialist, etc...) as long as that provider is participating in the program and providing vaccines. All providers will have access to all vaccines that are included in the program
- **I don't have a rep currently, the seat is vacant - who do I reach out to about this program instead?**
  - Representative Marjorie Decker, who filed the amendment to the House Budget would be a great place to start. [Marjorie.Decker@mahouse.gov](mailto:Marjorie.Decker@mahouse.gov). Advocating to your state Senator is also an option.
- **Why did this fall off the budget in the committee if it doesn't cost anything?**
  - We do not know the exact answer to this. There are many competing priorities with the budget process. There are some groups that are not openly supportive of this proposal, which may have had an influence.
- **For those of us who do not live in MA and are part of MAIC, is there a way we can help support this worthy cause?**
  - Sharing this information with colleagues to get information out there. Inform folks that this is something that is moving forward and letting them know what this program is/what it is advocating for. Make sure you are mentioning that this will not be an additional cost to MA taxpayers, which makes this proposal far more politically palatable.
- **Do we have the hospital folks behind this as well?**
  - We are connected with Mass Medical and MCAAP. We are not lobbyists but we do have the opportunity to advocate and help folks understand. Other organizations have a lobbying lane and we will lean on these groups to take charge with legislative change.