

UPDATE: Community pharmacies enrolment in Alberta COVID-19 Pharmacy Immunization Program (ACPIP)

Alberta Health is working towards expansion of the ACP/IP to more pharmacies as soon as possible, once incoming vaccine supply is confirmed by the National Operations Centre of the Federal Government.

In the interim, we remind you that there is no need to contact Alberta Blue Cross, Alberta Health, Alberta Health Services or other partners associated with the ACP/IP to check on the status of enrolment. Pharmacies will be notified as soon as the next phase is confirmed.

Updated documents for the ACP/IP

Important updates to the ACP/IP documents have been posted on the Alberta Blue Cross website at <https://ab.bluecross.ca/providers/pharmacy-covid-19-immunization.php>.

Pharmacists and licensees are encouraged to review these materials as soon as possible.

Immunization booking and allocation of inventory

Pharmacies should ensure they are prepared as soon as possible to book appointments for Albertans **when the next phase of the ACP/IP is launched in March**. History has demonstrated there will be a large and early demand for immunization services from eligible Albertans and pharmacies should be readied to manage this accordingly with an appropriate booking mechanism.

Until a launch date is confirmed, please do not book appointments or take names on a waiting list unless you were part of the initial participating pharmacies.

If you have begun booking appointments or creating a wait list, please cancel them immediately so as not to delay eligible Albertans from being immunized as soon as possible.

The initial participating pharmacies were identified based on geographic and population needs, as well as their demonstrated ability to handle large volumes of immunizations in short time frames. Representation includes a varied group of community pharmacy partners, including independent, chain, banner and franchise stores.

When a date is confirmed for booking appointments, it is critical to remember to book both appointments with an interval of 42 days between doses as much as possible. Guidance provided to pharmacies in alignment with AHS practices is a dosing interval of 38 to 42 days.

The amount of vaccine pharmacies can order will be determined by the supply of vaccine coming into the province from the National Operations Centre.

Further communications will be coming to participating stores once the supply amount has been confirmed and an allocation model determined in collaboration between Alberta Health and McKesson Canada.

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PHARMACY BENEFACT

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Alberta Vaccine Inventory (AVI) reporting process

Pharmacies will be required to access the AVI system on a daily basis to complete required reporting. In preparation for this, pharmacies will need to complete the AVI enrolment process in order to be assigned login credentials. This will be posted on the Alberta Blue Cross website within the next few business days.

In the interim, a training session on using AVI for all pharmacies participating in the Alberta COVID-19 Pharmacy Immunization Program will be posted online which will review the processes for accessing AVI, receiving transfers and reconciling inventory.

All locations holding any quantity of COVID-19 vaccine must complete a daily physical count and reconciliation of their on-hand inventory by 9 p.m. The on-hand quantities reported in AVI are used to manage inventory in the province and accuracy is essential to managing the COVID-19 vaccine program.

The training session has been recorded and training material will be posted on the AVI home page (vimsavi.alberta.ca/prod/) by Wednesday, March 3.

For assistance with benefit or claim inquiries, please contact an Alberta Blue Cross Pharmacy Services Provider Relations contact centre representative at

780-498-8370 (Edmonton and area)
403-294-4041 (Calgary and area)
1-800-361-9632 (toll free)
FAX 780-498-8406 (Edmonton and area)
FAX 1-877-305-9911 (toll free)

Alberta Blue Cross offers online access to current Pharmacy Benefacts and supplemental claiming information to assist with the submission of your direct bill drug claims.

Visit ab.bluecross.ca/providers/pharmacy-home.php

