



## Commercialization of COVID-19 Vaccines

### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

*Week of Sept. 19*

- As you may be aware, the Public Health Emergency ended May 11, 2023, and we are now in the commercialization phase of the COVID-19 vaccines. Commercialization simply means that COVID-19 vaccine will follow the normal pathways of distribution as all other routine vaccines both in the public and private markets.
- Since May 11, 2023, we have transitioned all enrolled COVID-19 vaccine providers into SIMON who stated by survey they wanted to remain in the COVID-19 vaccination program.
- We will begin to enroll providers either in the Vaccines For Children (VFC) program as a specialty provider if they want to continue providing COVID-19 vaccine to children (birth to 18 years of age) or they can enroll in the COVID-19 Bridge Access Program (BAP), which is only for adults 18+ years of age who are **un**insured or **under**insured.
- Initial allocations of COVID-19 vaccines will have to be prebooked by the provider's office. Once received the provider will have to manually add vaccine into SIMON. All vaccine ordering protocols for SIMON will apply to this process.
- Once the new COVID-19 vaccines are released to the public and private markets. Fully insured patients would now begin to receive the vaccine from either a retail pharmacy or health care provider, depending upon the age of the patient. Medicare and Medicaid for adults are considered public health insurance.
- Our federal partners have indicated that there will still be no cost to anyone who desires to receive the COVID-19 vaccine whether through public program such as VFC and BAP or private providers with supply until Dec. 31, 2024.
- COVID-19 Bridge Access Program vaccine will be available at DHEC Health Departments, FQHC's, and retail pharmacies (chain and independent).

If you are a local health care provider, health care center or Tribe and Indian organization interested in participating in the COVID-19 Bridge Access Vaccine program and would like to be added to the email list for our next townhall meeting, please email our Immunization Training Program Coordinator at [salvantn@dhec.sc.gov](mailto:salvantn@dhec.sc.gov) using this as the subject: COVID-19 Bridge Access Program.

***THANKS FOR ALL YOU DO!***