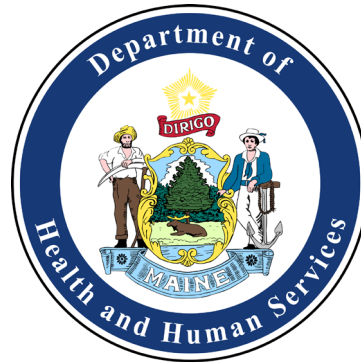


Expansion of Maine's Universal Immunization Program to Include Adults: What Providers Need to Know

Caitlin Anton & Kristen Coaty

April 2026



Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention

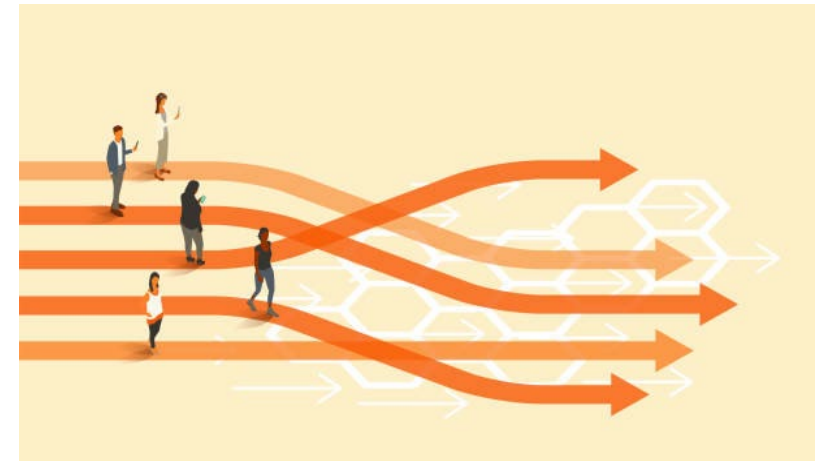
You're in the right place, if you're a...

- Site not currently enrolled in the childhood universal or 317 programs
- Practice interested in expanding adult vaccination
- Provider looking to reduce vaccine costs or simplify ordering



How Does This Affect the Existing Program for Currently Enrolled Providers?

- No changes to the childhood program
- Expanded to include adults (19-64)
- All approved vaccines are available at no cost *
 - No cost to healthcare providers for vaccine supply
 - No cost to patients for the vaccine
- Providers may bill an administration fee
 - Patients cannot be denied vaccination if unable to pay



*For a list of approved vaccines, visit the [Maine Vaccine Board](#)

What Does This Mean for Your Practice?

- No upfront costs for healthcare providers and patients
- Simplified vaccine ordering and inventory management
- Improved access to vaccines for adult patients
- Increased adult vaccination rates and community protection
- Enhanced support and resources
- More support and resources for providers
- Participation is voluntary



Who is Eligible for State Supplied Vaccine?

- All individuals ages 0-64, are eligible including:
 - Uninsured
 - Underinsured
 - Privately insured
 - Enrolled in MaineCare



What about 65+?

Eligibility

- The majority of adults 65+ will be on Medicare, those who are ensured solely through Medicare are **NOT** eligible for the expanded Universal Immunization Program

Coverage

- Medicare only: Must be vaccinated using privately purchased vaccine

What this means for providers

- Maintain private stock for Medicare patients



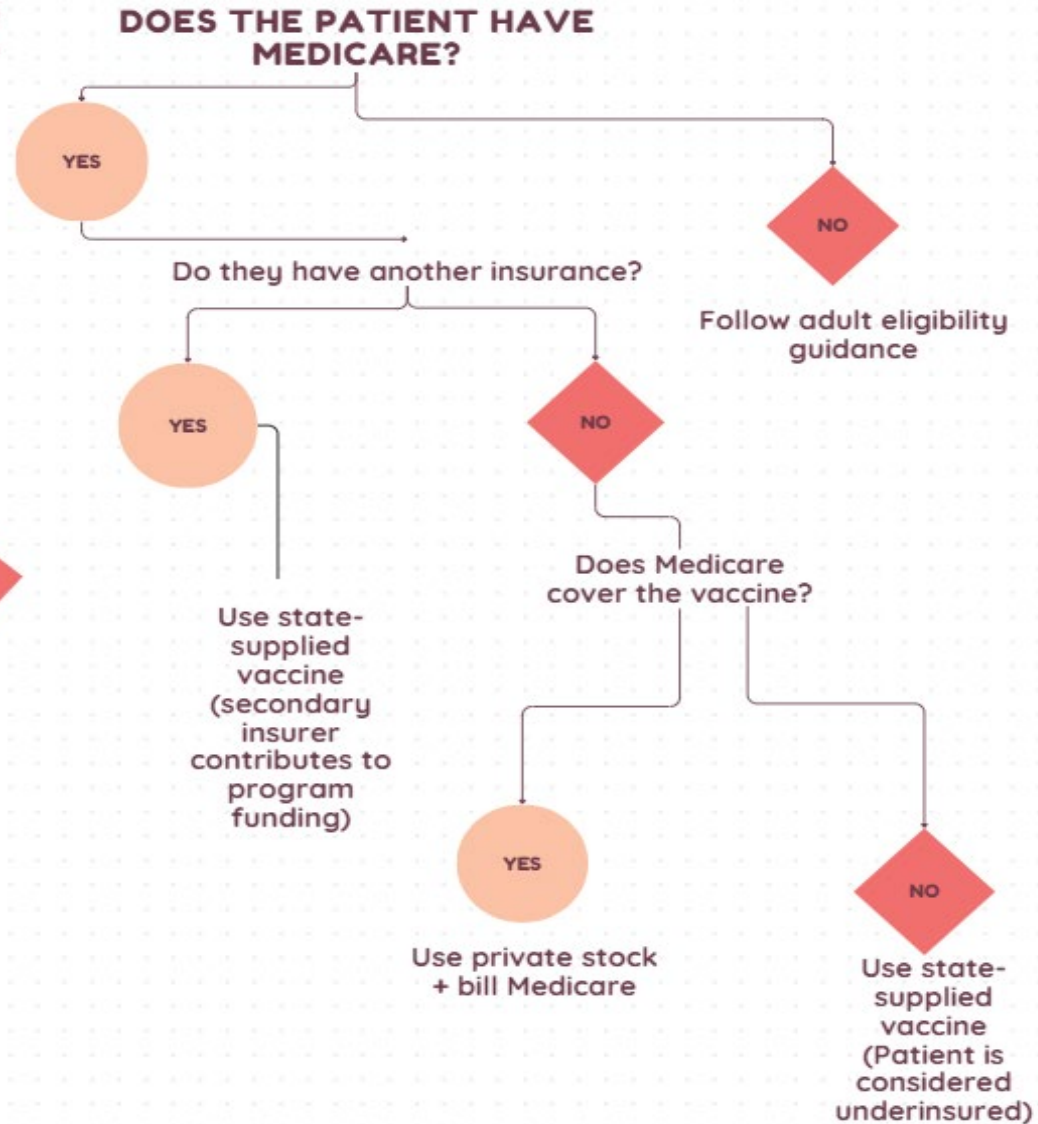
Medicare only = private stock

Medicare + secondary insurance = state supplied vaccine

What about Medicare?

MEDICARE DECISION TREE

Figure out if an individual on Medicare should receive state-supplied or private vaccine.



Eligibility Before July 1, 2026

- Children (0-18) → Covered through existing VFC program
- Adults (19+) → Limited access to state-supplied vaccine
- Most adults rely on:
 - private insurance
 - Or limited 317 supply (uninsured or underinsured)



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Eligibility After July 1, 2026

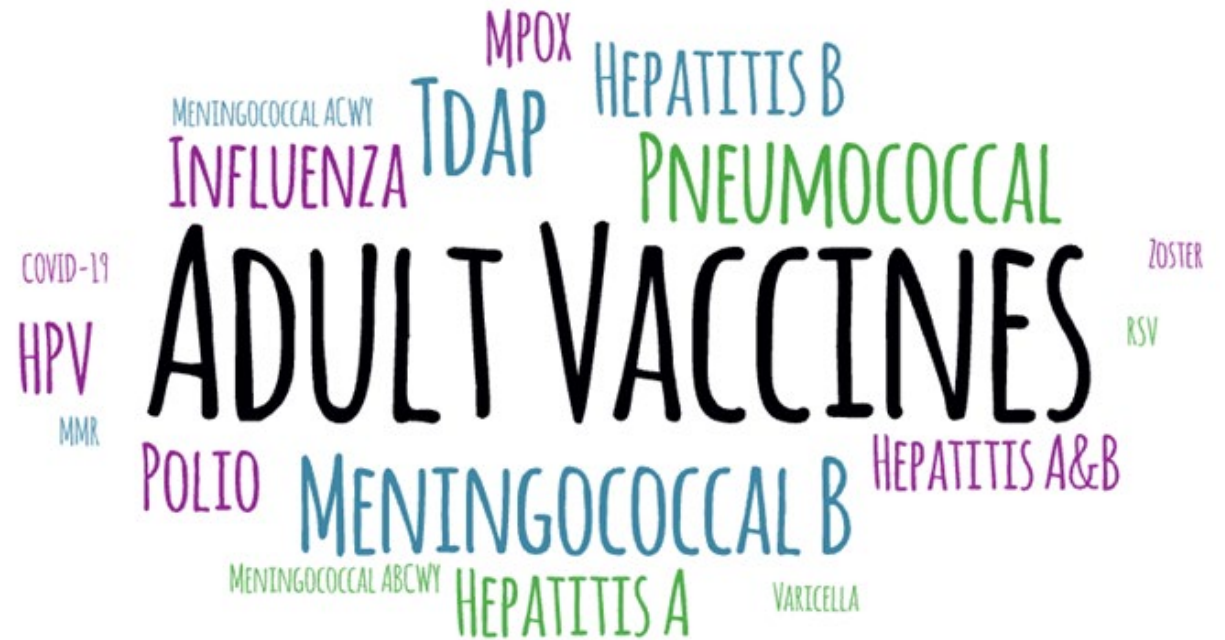
- Children (0-18) → No change
- Adults (19-64) → Now included in the program
- Vaccines available regardless of insurance status



*

Which vaccines will be available?

- All routinely recommended childhood vaccines
- Anticipated: All routinely recommended adult vaccines
 - Maine Vaccine Board will vote on which vaccines to include. A final list will be available late spring.



Ordering Flu & COVID-19 Vaccine Ordering

- **2026-2027 Season (this year):**

- Flu and COVID-19 vaccines **will NOT** be supplied through the program for **privately insured** adults aged 19-64.
 - Providers should plan to order these vaccines privately.
- Supply will be available for: uninsured and underinsured individuals.
- Flu and COVID-19 vaccines will be available for those 0 – 18 years of age during the 2027-2028 season

- **Looking Ahead:**

- Flu and COVID-19 vaccines will be included beginning Fall 2027.
- Additional guidance will be provided as we get closer to that timeframe.



How will ordering work?

- Ordering and tracking for both childhood and adult vaccinations will be done through the Immunization Information System (IIS).
- Vaccines will be shipped from our centralized distributor (McKesson) directly to the provider office.
- Orders can be placed on an as needed basis, but we encourage providers to maintain a vaccine supply that will last 4-6 weeks.



Storage Units and Temperature Monitoring

- Use appropriate vaccine storage units
- Stand alone and medical-grade preferred
- Dorm style units are prohibited
- Continuous temperature monitoring is required (MIP will provide these)
- (Digital Data Logger – DDL)
- Keep temperature logs and respond to excursions
- Plan for about 4–6 weeks of inventory
- We can help assess your current setup



Enrollment: What sites are eligible?

Any provider in the state of Maine who:

Can prescribe vaccines:

- MD, DO, ND
- Physician Associate
- Advanced Practice Registered Nurse
- ADV-certified Pharmacist



And serves eligible patients, including:

- Uninsured
- Underinsured
- Privately insured
- MaineCare members



*

Vaccine Coordinator Role

- Serves as the main point of contact with MIP
- Manages vaccine ordering and inventory
- Monitors and records temperatures
- Ensures proper storage and handling
- Keeps basic documentation up to date



A backup coordinator is also required and is expected to take over responsibilities when the primary cannot.

*

What are the Program Requirements?

What's expected?

- Sign a provider agreement
- The main required piece is the annual education and quiz.
 - If you have a new coordinator, they'll also need to complete training.
- Sites must make all recommended vaccines available (or be willing to order when needed)
- Store and handle vaccines properly (including temperature monitoring)
- Enter all administered state-supplied vaccines into ImmPact
- Data exchange between ImmPact and your EMR/EHR
- Maintain temperature monitoring logs and,
- Vaccine reconciliation and doses administered



See [MIP Provider Policy & Procedure Manual](#) for details

Getting Started

- Discuss with your Medical Director
- Reach out to MIP to get started
ImmunizeME.DHHS@maine.gov
- Complete a few enrollment forms
- Assign a vaccine coordinator and back vaccine coordinator
- Complete required training
- We guide you through the rest



What if we don't enroll?

- Providers must purchase vaccines privately (financial burden)
- No access to state-supplied, no-cost vaccines
- Limited access to ImmPact (Maine IIS)



Things to Keep In Mind Moving Forward

- Stay informed – Sign up for our listserv
- Use up existing private stock
 - There will be a grace period where insurers will continue paying for claims until private stock is depleted
- Contact MIP with questions or support needs



Questions?



Questions?

Caitlin Anton

Adult Vaccine Program Manager

Caitlin.Anton@maine.gov

Kristen Coaty

Public Health Advisor

Kristen.Coaty@maine.gov

