

## Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

### Health Plan Advisory

No. 21-07

DATE: November 24, 2021

TO: Nebraska Heritage Health Plans

FROM: Kevin Bagley, Director *KB*  
Division of Medicaid & Long-Term Care

BY: Kris Radke, Administrator

RE: November 2021 COVID-19 Vaccine Updates

This health plan advisory is being issued to notify the Medicaid health plans of the following:

- New updates on booster doses of the COVID-19 vaccine
- COVID-19 vaccinations for children ages 5-11

#### 1. COVID-19 Booster Doses:

Medicaid will cover booster doses of the Moderna and J&J/Janssen COVID-19 vaccines in addition to booster doses of the Pfizer vaccine as indicated in [Health Plan Advisory 21-06](#).

**Medicaid will cover an additional dose of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, at least 6 months after their Moderna primary series, for the following individuals:**

- 65 years and older and residents residing in long-term care setting **should** receive a booster shot;
- 50 to 64 years with underlying medical conditions **should** receive a booster shot;
- 18 to 49 years with underlying medical conditions **may** receive a booster shot; and
- 18 to 49 years at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission because of their occupational or institutional setting **may** receive a booster shot.

For a list of health conditions associated with an increased risk of severe COVID-19, visit the CDC's website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medicalconditions.html>.

**Medicaid will cover an additional dose of the J&J/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine, at least 2 months after their J&J/Janssen primary dose, for the following individuals:**

- People ages 18 years and older who received a J&J/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine at least 2 months ago **should** receive a booster dose. The patient may choose which type of COVID-19 vaccine to receive as their booster dose.

If a provider chooses to administer a booster dose of the vaccine that is a different brand than the original series the patient received, Medicaid will still cover the booster dose.

Tribal Clinics will be paid the all-inclusive rate for the administration of COVID-19 vaccine booster doses.

## **2. COVID-19 vaccinations for children:**

The FDA and CDC has approved the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for children ages 5-11. The vaccine is a two-dose series, 21 days apart, and at a lower dosage amount than the adult dose. Medicaid will cover COVID-19 vaccinations for children in this age range. More details are available online at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/pfizer/>

If you have questions regarding this bulletin, please contact Medicaid via email at: [DHHS.MedicaidPharmacyUnit@nebraska.gov](mailto:DHHS.MedicaidPharmacyUnit@nebraska.gov). Health plans should also copy their contract manager.

Health Plan Advisories, such as this one, are posted on the DHHS website at <http://dhhs.ne.gov/pages/Heritage-Health-Plan-Advisories.aspx>. Please subscribe to the page to help you stay up to date about new Health Plan Advisories.