



**UPDATE myMatrixx Position Paper regarding
COVID-19 Vaccination, Treatment and
Coverage under Workers' Compensation**

A myMatrixx Position Paper

COVID-19 Treatments of Interest

Effective antiviral treatments currently include Merck's antiviral pill, molnupiravir, and Gilead's remdesivir. These treatments have been shown to significantly reduce hospitalization for COVID patients.

Molnupiravir is a particularly intriguing therapy, as it is administered as a simple oral medication, which has been a key therapeutic goal since the start of the pandemic. According to a recently released analysis of the phase three trial, molnupiravir reduced the risk of hospitalization or death by approximately 50%. Read the full release here: [Molnupiravir](#).

Please be aware that there have been several medications suggested to be effective treatments for COVID 19, such as hydroxychloroquine and ivermectin, which are subsequently shown to be either **ineffective or problematic**.

More information on treatments of interest for COVID-19 is available from private research group TRC Healthcare and the reference materials on their website here: [Treatments of Interest for COVID-19](#).

You can also utilize our clinical resources for questions regarding prevention and treatment of COVID-19 by e-mailing clinical@mymatrixx.com or your Clinical Account Executive.

From the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) - Different COVID-19 Vaccines

	Vaccine Brand Name	Who Can Get this Vaccine ^[1]	How Many Shots You Will Need	When Are You Fully Vaccinated?
	Pfizer-BioNTech	People 12 years and older	2 shots. Given 3 weeks (21 days) apart ^[2]	2 weeks after your second shot
	Moderna	People 18 years and older	2 shots. Given 4 weeks (28 days) apart ^[2]	2 weeks after your second shot
	Johnson & Johnson's Janssen	People 18 years and older	1 shot	2 weeks after your shot

COVID-19 Treatments of Interest cont.

The CDC does not recommend one brand of vaccine over another; in fact, they state all currently authorized and recommended vaccines are safe, effective and reduce one's risk of severe infection.

Booster Shot



The CDC is also now recommending that those aged 65 years and older, residents of long-term care aged 18 and older and anyone aged 50–64 years with an underlying medical condition should all receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 Vaccine. This should be received at least six months after completing the initial series. As of this writing there are no updates regarding the recommendation of a booster for the Moderna or Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

NSC SAFER Program



In addition, the National Safety Council (NSC) has developed its Safe Actions For Employee Returns (SAFER) Program, which is “a multifaceted, comprehensive effort aimed at helping employers prioritize safety as they return employees to traditional work environments and schedules in a post-quarantine world” **SAFER Home**. A full description of the SAFER framework may be found here: **SAFER Framework**.



Related Information

Workers' compensation has not traditionally paid for the cost of preventative care, including vaccinations, and we are continuing to find this is not the case for the majority of our clients regarding the COVID-19 vaccines. Any costs associated with the vaccine and its administration are being covered by public or private insurance.

However, some clients have expressed concern over certain worker populations that may require vaccination, as well as certain COVID presumption laws and other proposed regulations.



Currently, there is no cost for the vaccine itself. Vaccine doses purchased with U.S. taxpayer dollars will be given to the American population at no cost. However, vaccination providers will be able to charge an administration fee for giving the shot to someone. Vaccine providers can have this fee reimbursed by the patient's public or private insurance company or, for uninsured patients, by the Health Resources and Services Administration's Provider Relief Fund.

For comparison, Medicare payment rates for a COVID-19 vaccine requiring a series of two or more doses will be \$16.94 for the initial dose(s) administration payment rate and \$28.39 for the administration of the final dose in the series. These rates recognize the costs involved in administration of the vaccine, including the additional resources involved with required public health reporting, conducting important outreach and patient education, and spending additional time with patients answering any questions they may have about the vaccine. These rates will also be geographically adjusted.

Coverage for the administration fee under workers' compensation are being based on either a formulary process or prior authorization process that best serves a particular client or jurisdiction.

It is important to note that none of the current vaccines are 100% effective, nor do they offer immediate immunity when they are effective. Therefore, individuals who receive the vaccination must still follow precautions such as social distancing and the use of masks. Please refer to Additional Information Regarding COVID-19 Vaccines below.

Key Takeaways

- Continue to wear masks and practice social distancing even after receiving both doses of the vaccine, particularly in areas of high transmission
- There is no indication of how long immunity from the vaccine will last, and there will likely be continued updates around booster shots
- Development of treatments for COVID-19 continues to move forward but it is essential to follow reputable clinical guidance for safety and effectiveness

References for additional information

<https://www.bmj.com/content/371/bmj.m4826>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html>

<https://www.hhs.gov/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccines/index.html>

<https://www.cms.gov/medicare/covid-19/medicare-covid-19-vaccine-shot-payment>

<https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/health/conditions-and-diseases/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccine-what-you-need-to-know>

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



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