



December 17, 2020

## COVID-19 Vaccine

*Undoubtedly, 2020 has been a challenging year as we've navigated a new way of life during the COVID-19 pandemic. We have been tested in ways that many of us could not have imagined. Whether in our networks of families, friends, or co-workers, we have been made to adapt while staying vigilant with our own health and well-being.*

*As we remain resolute in our behaviors, we are optimistic for better days to come and help in the form of a vaccine may be right around the corner. There are many challenges and considerations happening daily. Whether we are talking about regulatory changes, availability, logistics, or simple messaging to our communities, there is much work to be done. Rest assured that as your pharmacy healthcare partner, ProAct is committed to bringing our clients and members the latest relevant information and vaccine news—including when and how you and your loved ones can get the vaccine.*

### Here is what we know:

The upcoming decisions of the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regarding which vaccine products will be distributed under the Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) is the first step in determining when a vaccine will be accessible. While the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) predicts a sufficient supply of vaccine will be available, distribution will most likely occur in phases. In many cases, front-line healthcare workers, other essential workers, and those at an increased risk for severe illness (such as those in nursing homes or other institutions) may be the first to have access to the vaccine.

During this initial roll out, the federal government will purchase and distribute vaccine to states. Since the vaccine has been secured through the government, plan sponsors will only be required to cover the cost of administration. This coverage can exist either through the medical or prescription portion of the health plan. Due to the fact the federal government has partnered with chain and community pharmacies, ProAct will be extending coverage of the COVID-19 vaccine for our clients under the prescription drug benefit. The current vaccine products that are going through the EUA review are both 2 shot regimens, so members would need 2 shots—each carrying a fee for the administration of the vaccine.

There are still many unknowns. We do not know exactly when/how the vaccine will be distributed, who will have access at first, how many people will seek the vaccine, etc. Currently, there is no way to determine how long this initial supply of government-subsidized vaccine will last. We expect that by the time the initial supply is depleted, additional vaccine will be available. At that point, health plans would be responsible for both the vaccine cost and administration fees. As more develops on this front, our team will be in contact with you to provide guidance and projections on the fee structure. At this time it is also not known if this vaccine would need to be administered on a regular (e.g. annual) basis. If that ends up being the case, it may be considered a preventative benefit subject to the terms and conditions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

*ProAct continues to adapt to the situation and remains committed to delivering upon the pharmacy benefit management needs of our clients, members, and business partners. Thank you for your continued partnership. Stay well.*



For the most up-to-date information on the COVID-19 vaccine, visit:

<https://secure.proactrx.com/page/coronavirus/>