



2009 Flu Shot Program Guidelines for State Agencies

During this flu season, individual state agencies may make arrangements with local COVA Care or COVA Connect participating retail pharmacies to come onsite to give flu shots at no cost to plan members.

The following guidelines apply when dealing with a local pharmacy:

- The local pharmacy must participate with Medco (COVA Care) or Optima (COVA Connect) and file online for reimbursement.
- Agencies may determine whether covered family members, as well as employees, will participate in the onsite flu shot clinic.
- Plan members who bring a COVA Care or COVA Connect plan ID card will receive flu shots at no cost.
- COVA HDHP plan members cannot receive free flu shots from a pharmacy unless it participates with Anthem (the COVA HDHP prescription drug plan administrator). The state agency or location is responsible for asking the pharmacy how to handle COVA HDHP. For example, does the pharmacy also participate with Anthem?
- Kaiser Permanente HMO members may receive free flu shots at doctor's offices and participating Kaiser medical centers. They will have to pay for onsite flu shots.
- Employees who are not enrolled in state health plans will pay to receive the inoculation and will not be reimbursed.

If you choose to use a participating Virginia health department to provide a clinic onsite, VDH must get approval from Anthem or Optima, depending on the plan administrator, prior to conducting the clinic. As long as the participating health department files insurance with Anthem or Optima, flu shots may be given at no cost to all state health plan members through the medical benefit.

Remember, members of all health plans may receive free flu shots at doctor's offices that participate in the plan network. Flu shots are paid at 100% of the allowable charge. Members will need to show their plan ID card.

