

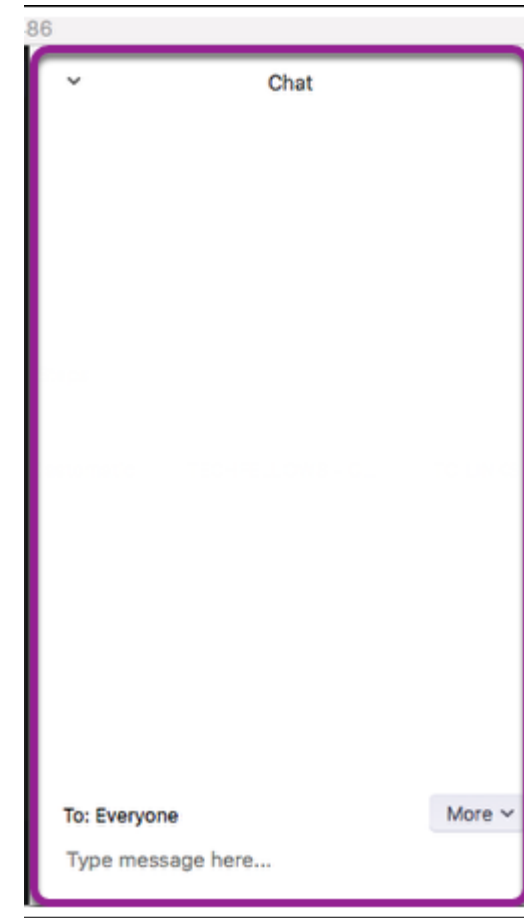
CHC Task Force Meeting

March 12, 2021

Zoom Help



Everyone will be muted. You can unmute yourself to ask questions by clicking on the microphone or phone button.



You can also send questions through Chat. Send questions to Everyone or a specific person.

Agenda

- **Welcome**, Chris Shank, President & CEO, NCCHCA
- **Vaccine Contract with NC DHHS**, Chris Shank, Mel Goodwin, NCCHCA
- **Agricultural Worker Vaccination**, Elizabeth Freeman, NC Farmworker Health Program & Bryan Parrish, NCCHCA
- **Billing for COVID Testing and Vaccines**, Brendan Riley, NCCHCA
- **Wrap-Up**

Slides & Other Info will be available on our website:
www.ncchca.org/covid-19/covid19-general-information/



Welcome from Chris Shank,
President & CEO, NCCCHCA

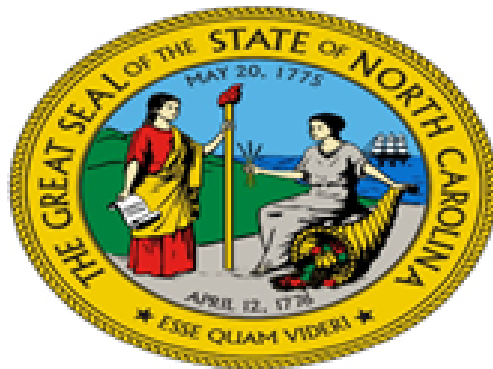
Vaccine Contract with NC DHHS
Chris Shank, Mel Goodwin,
NCCHCA

Agricultural Worker Vaccination

Elizabeth Freeman,

NC Farmworker Health Program &

Bryan Parrish, NCCHCA



NC Department of Health and Human Services

NCFHP overview and COVID-19 response

Elizabeth Freeman Lambar
NC Farmworker Health Program, Office of Rural Health
Elizabeth.freeman@dhhs.nc.gov
vaccine4farmworkers@dhhs.nc.gov



Our program
supports

8 sites

Reaching **56 counties**

Skilled **outreach teams** find farmworkers and their families in rural areas, assess their health needs, & provide and link them to care through:

✓ Interpretation

✓ Health
Education

✓ Transportation

✓ Case
Management



9,675



Men, women and children from
farmworker families served in **2018**

2,928



Medical visits

1,721



Dental visits

954+

Patients seen on
a mobile unit

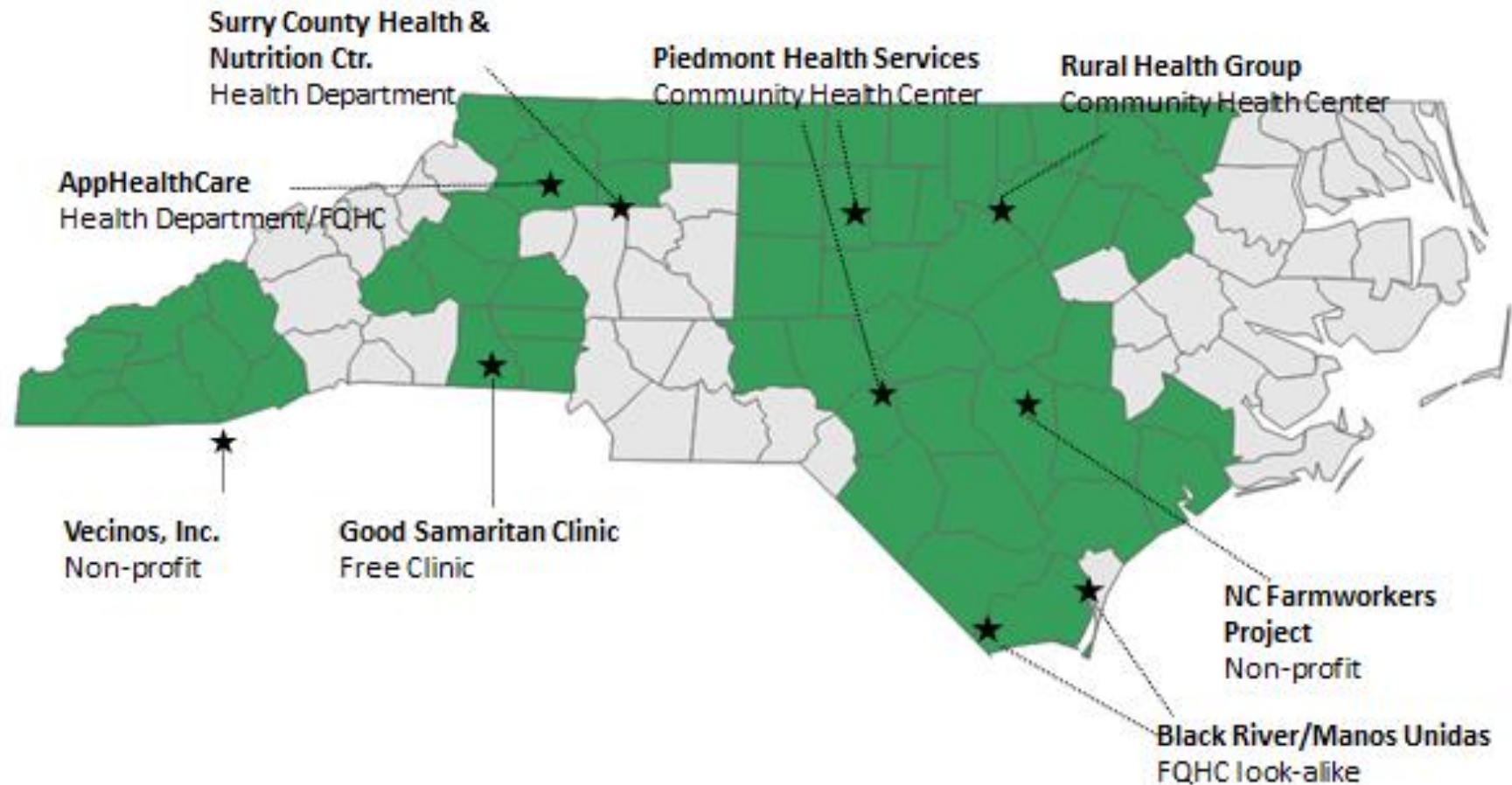


13,041 Health education sessions
on **64** different topics including pesticide
safety, heat illness prevention, sexually
transmitted infections & DWI

3,219 low-cost prescriptions
dispensed with a **cost savings** of
\$226,956



NCFHP, ORH, NC DHHS – Service Delivery Sites 2021-2022



NC Farmworker Health Program, ORH, NC DHHS



<https://www.ncfhp.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/2020-NCFHP-and-MHC-Map.pdf>

Internet Connectivity Project

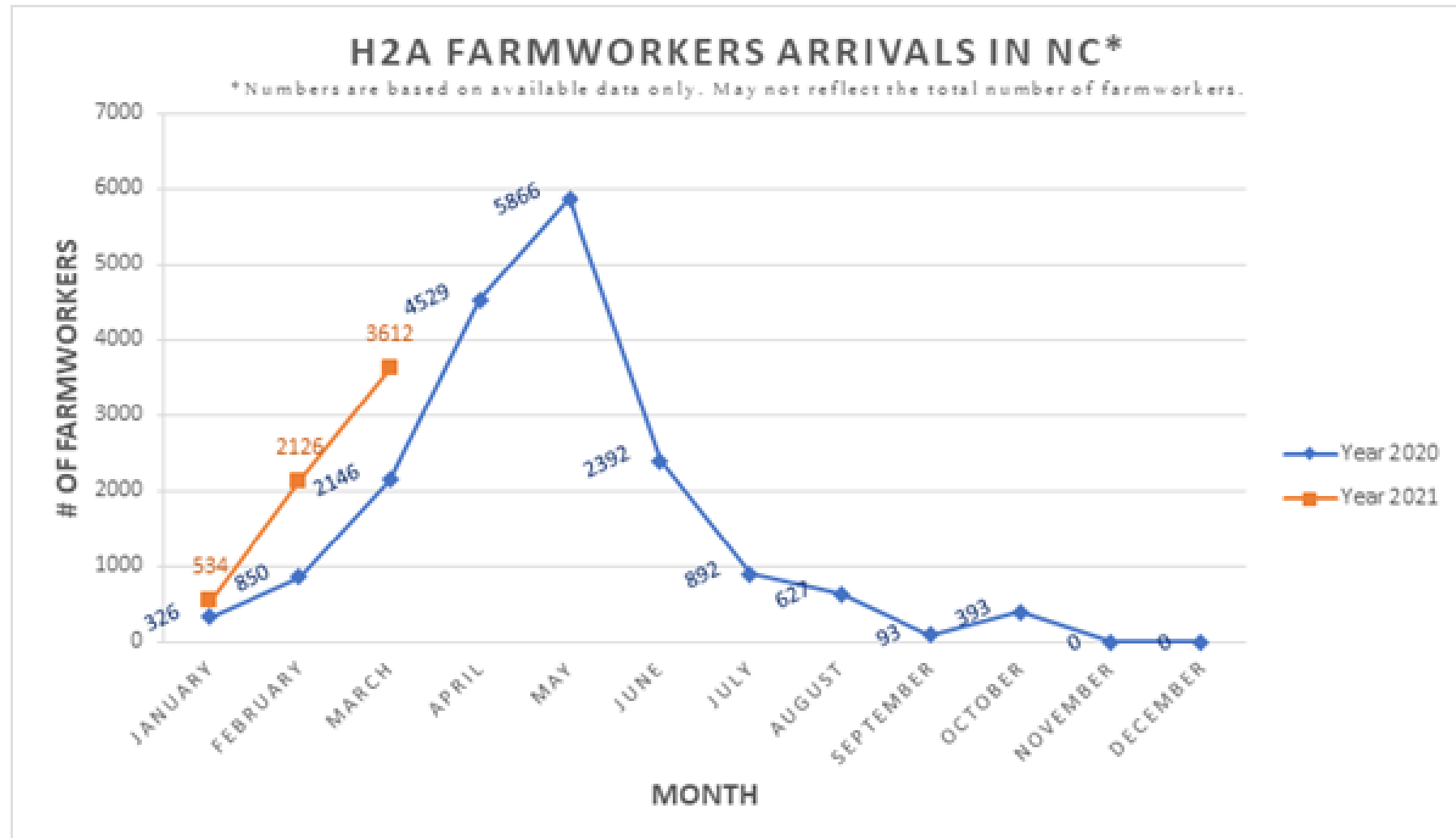
NCFHP has distributed **137 hotspots** to partner organizations



The above map depicts the number of hotspots that have been distributed to each organization. Counties within the service areas of these organizations are **dark green**.

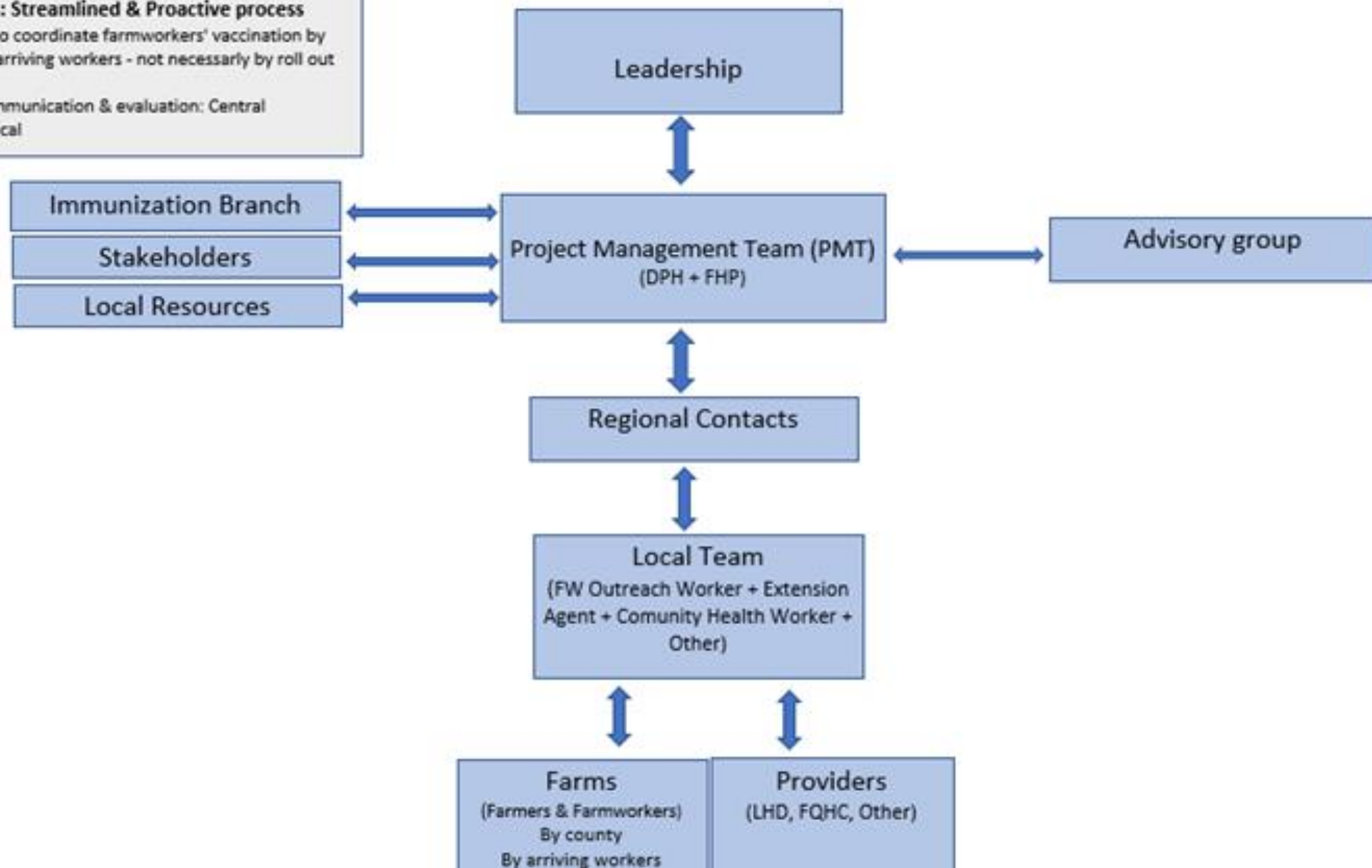


Estimate of 70,000 migrant and seasonal farmworkers in NC
(Approximately 20,000 workers with H2A visa, 34,000 migrant and 16,000 seasonal)



Key Concepts: Streamlined & Proactive process

- 1-Local teams to coordinate farmworkers' vaccination by county and by arriving workers - not necessarily by roll out phase
- 2-Planning, communication & evaluation: Central
- 3-Execution: Local



Resources

- Questions about Vaccination plan for farmworkers:

Vaccine4farmworkers@dhhs.nc.gov

- Resources for farmworkers and farmers:

www.ncfhp.org

- To sign up for NCFHP listserv:

<https://www.ncfhp.org/ncfhp-newsletters-updates/>

Billing for COVID Testing and Vaccines

Brendan Riley,

NCCHCA

COVID-19 Vaccine Reimbursement

Medicare & Medicare Advantage Reimbursement:

- Fee Schedule for most providers – *but not FQHCs*. Reimbursed via the annual cost report.
- [CMS FQHC Center](#): **COVID-19 Vaccines in RHCs and FQHCs**
"COVID-19 vaccines and their administration will be paid the same way influenza and pneumococcal vaccines and their administration are paid in RHCs and FQHCs. Influenza and pneumococcal vaccines and their administration **are paid at 100 percent of reasonable cost through the cost report**. The beneficiary coinsurance and deductible are waived. For additional information, please see <https://www.cms.gov/covidvax>.
- **NEW** as of March '21: "RHCs and FQHCs should include COVID-19 vaccines and their administration costs for patients enrolled in **Medicare Advantage** on the cost report as well."

NACHC asking U.S. HHS to revisit, provide interim payments based on Medicare fee schedule.

- Recommendation from FTLF: Keep track of your data in case HHS changes this policy and allows you to bill for interim payments on fee schedule after all.

COVID-19 Vaccine Reimbursement

Medicaid Reimbursement:

- Mirroring Medicare *fee schedule* reimbursement, Medicaid and NC Health Choice will reimburse at the Medicare approved COVID-19 vaccination administration rate at:
 - Medicare fee schedule reimbursement is \$28.39 to administer single-dose vaccines; for two-dose vaccines, it's \$16.94 for 1st dose and \$28.39 for 2nd dose.
- FQHCs bill using Medicaid fee schedule for vaccine administration

Uninsured Reimbursement:

- Providers can bill the HRSA Uninsured Claims Portal for vaccine administration to uninsured individuals (now called "COVID-19 Claims Reimbursement to Health Care Providers and Facilities for Testing, Treatment, *and Vaccine Administration* for the Uninsured")
- Reimbursement rates based on Medicare fee schedule

Reminder: Billing & ID Requirements for COVID-19 Vaccine & Testing

- Reminder about prohibitions on billing *and* collecting charges to uninsured patients:
 - Testing: Cannot bill uninsured patients if seeking reimbursement from HRSA Uninsured Claims Portal: “The Recipient certifies that it will not engage in “balance billing” or charge any type of cost sharing for any COVID-19 Testing and/or Testing-Related Items and Services provided to FFCRA Uninsured Individuals for which the Recipient receives a Payment from the FFCRA Relief Fund. The Recipient shall consider Payment received from the FFCRA Relief Fund to be payment in full for such care or treatment.”
 - Vaccine: Patients cannot be charged for the vaccine or its administration, but providers can bill third party payors, including the HRSA Uninsured Claims Portal, for vaccine administration services.
- Reminder about contracts with state for **No-Cost Testing** events (Op9)
 - Operational considerations (ex. automatic bills generated by EMR)
 - Cannot require ID – though it may be helpful for billing, this can create barriers for patients

Commercial/Private Insurer Coverage of COVID-19 Testing

- New Testing Guidance from Biden Administration on Insurance Coverage Requirements for COVID-19 Testing
 - Plans and insurers must cover, without cost-sharing, COVID-19 tests for asymptomatic individuals regardless of whether a patient has symptoms or was exposed to COVID-19.
 - **But** does not go so far as to require coverage for general workplace health and safety or public health surveillance testing.



Commercial/Private Insurer Coverage of COVID-19 Vaccines

- Federal law & regulation requires health insurers to cover COVID-19 vaccines **and** their administration without patient cost-sharing within 15 business days of adoption of ACIP recommendation.
 - Therefore, these requirements become effective:
 - January 5: Pfizer
 - January 12: Moderna
 - *March 19*: Johnson & Johnson
- In general, there are some loopholes for testing coverage, which could result in patient cost-sharing instead of claims paid by plan.
 - However, there are fewer loopholes when it comes to vaccine administration.

Upcoming FQHC Task Force Calls

- **March 26, 10:00-11:30am**
- **April 23, 10:00-11:30am**



Stay connected!

www.ncchca.org/covid-19/

covid19@ncchca.org

