



COVID-19 Vaccine Commercialization Update

Feb. 21, 2023

I write with a message of reassurance and resolve on COVID-19 vaccine commercialization, as we continue to learn more from our conversations with federal officials.

Here is **what we know** so far:

- **Commercialization is unlikely to take place before this fall**, when the federal government runs out of funding to buy more vaccine. Ashish Jha, MD, MPH, White House COVID-19 Response Coordinator, outlined this timeline in a [tweet](#) earlier this month. This is good news for pediatricians, who will have more time to prepare for the transition. The end of the public health emergency this spring is separate from the timeline for commercialization.
- The stated goal from the administration is for **a bivalent vaccine for all ages** to be available when commercialization begins. A bivalent product will be much simpler for pediatricians to stock and administer than the current monovalent vaccine.
- The administration and manufacturers are also striving to have **single-dose vials** available when commercialization happens, which should bring relief to many practices that otherwise would not have been able to afford to place new orders.

Here's what we **don't yet know but are advocating for** with vaccine manufacturers, with payers and with the federal government:

- Vaccine payment from payers on day one of commercialization
- Flexible ordering policies for COVID-19 vaccines, including the number of vials required per order
- Improved labeling of COVID-19 vials to minimize errors in administering the vaccines
- Liberal return policies for expired doses
- Longer invoice and payment schedules so pediatricians can be paid first before having to pay for new vaccine orders
- Greater flexibility in the Vaccines for Children program
- Opportunities for administration officials to talk directly to AAP members about pediatricians' needs ahead of commercialization

I will update you often as these conversations continue over the next few months and share any news we learn about timing and scope of commercialization in the meantime. We will not stop advocating for the changes we know you need to make sure that all eligible children are able to be vaccinated against COVID-19 by their pediatrician. Thank you for all you do.

Warmest regards,

Sandy Chung, MD, FAAP

President