



**Questions & Answers:  
Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey  
In-State Immunization Network**

**October 8, 2020**

Getting an influenza vaccine (flu shot) is the most effective way to prevent the flu, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). By taking steps to prevent infection from the flu virus, you can help stop the spread of the flu and improve your chances for staying healthy.

In addition to getting immunizations from their primary doctors, **our health plan members in New Jersey** can get flu shots and other vaccines at:

- Pharmacies that contract with Horizon BCBSNJ's medical network
- Our In-State Immunization Network, consisting of New Jersey-based independent pharmacies that are members of Garden State Pharmacy Owners, Inc.

Below are answers to questions members may have about our In-State Immunization Network.

**Q1: Can Horizon BCBSNJ members use any pharmacy in the United States to get a no-cost flu shot or other vaccination?**

A1: No. To get a no-cost flu shot or other vaccination under this program, Horizon BCBSNJ members must use pharmacies in the state of New Jersey that contract as participating ancillary providers with Horizon BCBSNJ's medical network.

Visit [HorizonBlue.com/flu](https://HorizonBlue.com/flu) for a list of New Jersey pharmacies that contract with our medical network to administer immunizations.

**Q2: Does Horizon BCBSNJ have other pharmacies in its medical network in New Jersey that can provide immunizations?**

A2: Yes. Through an arrangement with Garden State Pharmacy Owners, Inc. (GSPO), many independent pharmacies across New Jersey that are members of GSPO participate and offer immunizations. Members wishing to use an independent pharmacy in New Jersey should ask their pharmacist if they participate with Horizon BCBSNJ for immunizations.

**Q3: Which vaccines are covered at participating pharmacies?**

A3: Standard three-strain (trivalent), standard four-strain (quadrivalent) and high-dose are the common vaccines covered as flu shots. FluMist, a child-friendly nasal spray vaccine, is also an option for the 2020-2021 flu season. Members should talk to their doctors about which flu immunization is right for them.

Other common vaccines include shingles, hepatitis A and B, pneumococcal, human papillomavirus (HPV), tetanus and measles/mumps/rubella (MMR). Members should check with the pharmacy location to confirm which vaccines are available, and whether a prescription is needed.

**Q4: Which pharmacies should out-of-state members use?**

A4: Members living outside of New Jersey may receive immunizations from their network doctors or a MinuteClinic® located inside CVS Pharmacy locations. Pharmacies located outside of New Jersey are not contracted with Horizon BCBSNJ's medical network.

**Q5: How much will members pay if they use a contracted participating pharmacy?**

A5: To get a no-cost flu shot or other vaccination, members must use pharmacies in the state of New Jersey that contract as participating ancillary providers with Horizon BCBSNJ's medical network. No-cost flu shots are available to Horizon BCBSNJ members with medical benefits who are enrolled in a fully insured plan or a self-insured plan.

If a member has a medical plan with out-of-network benefits and receives a vaccination at a pharmacy that does *not* participate as an ancillary provider in Horizon BCBSNJ's immunization network, the member will pay more. How much a member pays is determined by the immunization benefit on his or her medical plan.

Members can submit an out-of-network [medical claim form](#) to Horizon BCBSNJ for reimbursement.

**State Health Benefits Program (SHBP) and School Employees' Health Benefits Program (SEHBP) members:** Out-of-network immunizations are only covered for dependents under age 12 months during a well-child visit if the plan includes out-of-network benefits.

**Q6: Can children get immunized through Horizon BCBSNJ's immunization network in New Jersey?**

A6: In New Jersey, it depends on the type of immunization. For the flu vaccine, New Jersey state law allows pharmacists to be trained and certified to administer flu shots to children ages 7 years and older. Children ages 7 to 11 years must show a prescription from an authorized prescriber. Children ages 11 to 18 years must obtain parental consent to get a flu shot.

A prescription may be needed for immunizations other than the flu vaccine. Members should talk to their doctors about which immunizations are right for them and whether a prescription is required.

**Q7: Does Horizon BCBSNJ sponsor flu clinics or immunization clinics for employer groups through these pharmacies?**

A7: No, Horizon BCBSNJ does not sponsor flu clinics. However, four pharmacies ([ACME](#), [CVS Pharmacy](#), [Rite Aid](#) and [Walgreens](#)) are contractually permitted to perform no-cost flu clinics for Horizon BCBSNJ medical members at employer group locations in New Jersey. It is the employer group's responsibility to contact their local New Jersey ACME, CVS, Rite Aid or Walgreens for availability and to coordinate dates, times and logistics. The pharmacy will need to have at least two weeks' notice for an on-site clinic. Most also require a minimum number of members to participate in a clinic. Members should ask their employers if an employer on-site flu clinic is planned for this flu season. Given the current COVID-19 pandemic, opportunities to receive a flu shot at an on-site workplace clinic may be extremely limited.

**Q8: How can I find more information about flu shots through Horizon BCBSNJ?**

A8: Visit [HorizonBlue.com/flu](https://HorizonBlue.com/flu) for more information.

**Q9: I've been hearing that getting a flu shot this year is more important than ever. Why?**

A9: The CDC believes it's likely that flu viruses and the virus that causes COVID-19 will both be circulating this season. That means that getting a flu vaccine will be more important than ever to help keep people healthy and reduce the strain on the health care system. The CDC recommends that all people 6 months and older get a yearly flu vaccine.