Covid-19 vaccines, treatment and costs

Getting vaccinated for Covid-19 is more important than ever with the spread of Omicron, a new and more contagious variant of the virus. Vaccines are free, easily available and safe. The federal government is providing vaccines free of charge to all people living in the United States, regardless of their immigration or health insurance status.

Children and adolescents: All Persons 5 years of age and older are eligible to receive the Covid vaccine in Florida. The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine is authorized for individuals 5 years of age or older. To obtain the vaccine in Florida, individuals 5-17 years of age must be accompanied by a guardian.

*Persons 12 and older are eligible for the Covid "booster" vaccine, a third dose of the Covid vaccine recommended due to the spread of the more contagious Omicron variant. A **booster shot** will increase your immune response.*

Find out where to get vaccinated close to you: https://floridahealthcovid19.gov/vaccines/

Homebound - If you, or someone you know, is unable to leave the house, let the vaccine come to you. Residents may call 1-800-96-ELDER (1-800-963-5337) or email homeboundvaccine@em.myflorida.com to set up a free appointment.

Uninsured: Options for access to affordable healthcare.

If you get sick from Covid and need medical care but can't afford it - either in initial stages or due to continuing "Long Covid" symptoms and healthcare needs, you can get covered for health care in many ways:

***Apply for Medicaid anytime in Florida** if you fall into one of these categories: people with disabilities or over 65, former foster children until age 26, pregnant women or extremely low-income parents qualify. In addition, financial assistance for medical care is available at some local hospitals. In Miami, for example, Jackson Health has a financial assistance program as a designated local charity care hospital.*

Uninsured Florida residents can also access low-cost healthcare at Federally Qualified Health Centers in their communities

Get health insurance: www.healthcare.gov.

You can enroll in an Affordable Care Act Marketplace health plan. More people now qualify for subsidies and plans with new, lower costs, even zero premiums at no cost to you, that make the monthly premiums more affordable. There's an open enrollment period through January 15, 2022 and a special enrollment period open anytime due to change of circumstances (loss of private insurance, new job or move, for example). There are several ways to apply and enroll:

- *Apply online at www.healthcare.gov*

- *Call the Marketplace Call Center at 1-800-318-2596; help is available in 200 languages!*

- *Find help through an agent/broker: Healthcare.gov/find-assistance/.*

Surprise bills for Covid-19 testing or treatment

Did you receive a surprise bill for a Covid-19 test or hospital stay? Know your rights.

https://www.floridahealthjustice.org/uploads/1/1/5/5/115598329/surprise_billing_flyer.pd

The Florida Stories Project

Florida Health Justice Project continues to advocate for expanded Medicaid by sharing the stories of uninsured Floridians, including low wage workers and parents, older Floridians, and people struggling with sickness or people struggling with physical or mental illness.https://www.floridahealthstories.org/medicaid-expansion

[We also share personal stories about why Medicaid is so important, and well as the barriers faced by Medicaid beneiciaries.](https://www.floridahealthstories.org/medicaid-the-lived-experience) https://www.floridahealthstories.org/medicaid-the-lived-experience

We share all of these stories at www.floridahealthstories.org.

Contact us if you or a family member need health care and are:

1. *Impacted by Covid-19.*

2. *Struggling with injury or illness, including mental illness.*

3. *A low-income worker.*

4. *A parent of a minor child.*

5. *An uninsured Floridian between the ages of 50-64.*

Do you want to share your story?

Go to: https://www.floridahealthstories.org/share-your-story

Florida Health Justice Project, a nonprofit organization, recognizes that access to quality, affordable health care is a human right and participates in a comprehensive advocacy to expand access to health care and promote health equity for vulnerable Floridians.