



Laura Belin &lt;laurarbelin@bleedingheartland.com&gt;

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**access to COVID boosters**

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**Laura Belin** <laurarbelin@bleedingheartland.com>  
To: "Murphy, Alexander" <alex.murphy@hhs.iowa.gov>

Fri, Oct 3, 2025 at 10:49 AM

Alex,

Another week has passed, and major pharmacy chains (CVS, Hy-Vee, Walgreens) are still not providing COVID-19 booster shots to any Iowan who is under age 65 unless that person has an underlying condition.

Will HHS issue a standing order or take any other action to ensure that Iowans who choose to protect themselves or vulnerable household members are able to get vaccinated?

Yours,

Laura

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Laura Belin** <laurarbelin@bleedingheartland.com>  
Date: Thu, Sep 25, 2025 at 9:19 PM  
Subject: Fwd: access to COVID boosters  
To: Murphy, Alexander <alex.murphy@hhs.iowa.gov>

Alex, since I shared this video I have been deluged with comments and private messages from Iowans who were unable to get a COVID booster at their local pharmacy.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gy5IIU2EJQM>

Is HHS going to do anything to give Iowans the opportunity to choose to protect themselves and/or vulnerable family members?

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Laura Belin** <laurarbelin@bleedingheartland.com>  
Date: Thu, Sep 25, 2025 at 11:50 AM  
Subject: access to COVID boosters  
To: Murphy, Alexander <alex.murphy@hhs.iowa.gov>

Hello Alex,

I asked Governor Reynolds yesterday about access to COVID booster shots, because I talked with several people earlier this week who were either unable to get them from a local pharmacy, or have family who were unable to get them. The governor told me her impression was that anyone can choose to get a booster, but that is incorrect.

I called a Hy-Vee pharmacy in my area today and confirmed that people under age 65 cannot get a COVID booster unless they have one of the underlying conditions on a list. She said this isn't a Hy-Vee policy but is rather "CDC guidelines." She said this includes health care professionals who work with vulnerable patients: if they are under age 65 they can't get a COVID booster if they don't have an underlying condition.

I'm attaching the audio (it is in two parts because she had to go talk to a colleague or supervisor and I was on hold).

Basically my options would be to schedule an appointment with a physician to get a prescription for the COVID booster (which would be a costly and time-consuming barrier for many people), or just check the box on the form (that is, lie to Hy-Vee pharmacy about having an underlying health condition).

Someone I know in a different county in Iowa was turned down by her Hy-Vee as well. And on Tuesday I talked with someone who was able to get a shot because she has asthma, but her husband was turned down (even though he lives with someone who has asthma).

When I was in fifth grade, my mother was undergoing chemotherapy. Family members living with a cancer patient cannot get a COVID booster at many Iowa pharmacies now.

In some states, public health officials have issued a standing order allowing COVID-19 vaccination for people over age six months. For example:

<https://doh.wa.gov/newsroom/doh-confirms-covid-19-vaccine-position-new-standing-order>

Do leaders at Iowa HHS think that Iowans should be able to choose to be vaccinated, either to protect themselves or to protect others they spend time with?

Will Iowa HHS do anything to ensure Iowans who want to be vaccinated, or want their children to be vaccinated, will be able to make that choice?

Thank you in advance for any comments or clarification for a Bleeding Heartland post in progress.

Yours,

Laura

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## 2 attachments

 **Hy-Vee pharmacy\_2.m4a**  
832K

 **Hy-Vee pharmacy\_1.MP3**  
3008K