



Laura Belin <laurarbelin@bleedingheartland.com>

following up on COVID boosters

Laura Belin <laurarbelin@bleedingheartland.com>
To: "Mauro, Mason" <mason.mauro@governor.iowa.gov>

Fri, Oct 3, 2025 at 10:51 AM

Mason,

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. This includes people who live with or work with people who are vulnerable to severe complications from COVID-19.

Will Governor Reynolds direct Iowa HHS to 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: Fri, Sep 26, 2025 at 7:24 AM
Subject: Fwd: following up on COVID boosters
To: Mauro, Mason <mason.mauro@governor.iowa.gov>

Mason, I'm circling back on this after hearing from many people that they were turned away from their local pharmacy for not having an underlying condition, or told they needed a doctor's prescription.

Will Governor Reynolds call on all Iowa pharmacies to respect individual decisions on whether to get a COVID booster?

<https://abcnews.go.com/amp/Health/cdc-hepatitis-bvaccine-vote-delayed-parents/story?id=125731004>

Will Governor Reynolds call on Iowa pharmacies to respect parents' decisions on whether their children should get a booster shot?

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From: **Laura Belin** <laurarbelin@bleedingheartland.com>
Date: Thu, Sep 25, 2025 at 11:47 AM
Subject: following up on COVID boosters
To: Mauro, Mason <mason.mauro@governor.iowa.gov>

Hello Mason,

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.

The audio 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).

As I mentioned yesterday, 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>

Does Governor Reynolds think that Iowans should be able to choose to be vaccinated, either to protect themselves or to protect others they spend time with?

Will Governor Reynolds 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.

Yours,

Laura

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2 attachments



Hy-Vee pharmacy_2.m4a
832K



Hy-Vee pharmacy_1.MP3
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