



Regence

Group Administrators

An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association Serving Select Counties in Washington

September 15, 2022

To Our Valued Clients and Partners,

Bivalent boosters are here! The FDA has authorized two COVID-19 bivalent vaccines available in a single dose. Pharmacies and health systems across the U.S. are stocked and ready to administer this latest booster to individuals 12 years of age and older whose last monovalent booster was at least two months prior. (Read our full COVID-19 update online for more information about the bivalent booster.)

Just as America's youth settle into their classrooms, college dorms, sports, and activities for the Fall term, U.S. health officials are bracing for a COVID-19 and flu surge this fall as they monitor the worst flu outbreak in five years in the southern hemisphere. The good news is that the flu vaccine has been updated for 2022-23 to cover four flu strains and [the CDC advises that it is safe](#) to get at the same time as the new COVID-19 booster vaccine.

The CDC's reported 7-day average U.S. daily new COVID-19 case count as of September 13th is at 60.6K new cases per day, which is down from 103K new cases per day one month ago and is 87K new cases per day under where it was one year ago.

While the federal program at [COVID.gov/tests](https://www.covid.gov/tests) for free at-home test kits through the mail was suspended on September 2nd, Washington State residents may order additional free COVID-19 home test kits from the WA Department of Health's "[Say Yes, COVID Test](#)" program. Additionally, throughout the national COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, health plans must continue to cover up to eight COVID-19 home tests each month for each plan member.

We're Here for You

Thank you for reading our newsletter and thank you for your continued trust in our organization.

Our focus, dedication, and support remain steadfast as we navigate these unique times with you. Thank you for healthy. Please reach out to your Account Manager if you have any questions or if there is anything we can do to help. We would also love to hear your feedback on future content and story ideas for this newsletter. Drop us your ideas and feedback at TPAMarketing@accessupa.com. [Are you following us on LinkedIn?](#) This is a great way to keep a pulse on what is happening between our monthly newsletters.

Best Regards,

Lindsay Harris, MPP *President and CEO*

Regence Group Administrator