

Government Warns Doctors and Insurers: Don't Bill for Covid Vaccines

[nytimes.com/2021/06/09/upshot/covid-vaccines-government-warning-bills.html](https://www.nytimes.com/2021/06/09/upshot/covid-vaccines-government-warning-bills.html)

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The New York Times is investigating the costs associated with coronavirus testing, treatment and vaccination. You can read more about the project and submit your medical bills here.

The Biden administration is reminding doctors, hospitals, pharmacies and insurers that it is illegal to bill patients for coronavirus vaccines, a letter obtained by The Times shows.

The new warning responds to concerns among unvaccinated Americans that they could receive a bill with their shot. A recent Kaiser Family Foundation poll found that about a third of unvaccinated adults were unsure whether insurance covered the new vaccine.

Image



In New York City, Covid-19 vaccination is available in some subway stations. The vaccine is free, but concerns persist about cost, polling shows. Credit...Brendan Mcdermid/Reuters

“We recognize that there are costs associated with administering vaccines — from staff trainings to vaccine storage,” Xavier Becerra, the Health and Human Services secretary, wrote in a letter to vaccinators and insurers. “For these expenses, providers may not bill

patients but can seek reimbursement through Medicare, Medicaid, private insurance or other applicable coverage.”

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The letter warns that billing patients could lead to state or federal “enforcement actions,” but does not specify what the penalty would be.

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