

Health Update: September 22

This week's Health Update provides information on COVID-19 test kits and vaccines, as well as the new RSV vaccines!

### COVID-19:

Beginning Monday, September 25, every U.S. household can place an order to receive four more free COVID-19 rapid tests delivered directly to their home. To place your order, visit: [www.covid.gov/tests](http://www.covid.gov/tests). Shipments will begin October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Additionally, before you throw out your "expired" tests double check to see if your COVID-19 tests' expiration dates have been extended at this FDA link: <https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/coronavirus-covid-19-and-medical-devices/home-otc-covid-19-diagnostic-tests#list>

The Greater Boroughs Partnership for Health is not planning any COVID-19 vaccine clinics for this season. However, doctor's office and pharmacies will be offering COVID-19 vaccines. Updated COVID-19 vaccines are available to most adults living in the U.S. at no cost through their private health insurance, Medicare, and Medicaid plans. The [Vaccines for Children \(VFC\)](#) program is a federally funded program that provides vaccines at no cost to children who might not otherwise be vaccinated because of inability to pay. Adults without health insurance and additional adults whose insurance does not cover all COVID-19 vaccine costs can receive free COVID vaccines, through the [CDC's Bridge Access Program](#). These no-cost COVID-19 vaccines will be available at healthcare providers, federally supported health centers and retail pharmacy chains participating in the Bridge Access Program, through December 31, 2024. You can find a COVID vaccination site near you at [Vaccines.gov](http://Vaccines.gov) or by contacting your health care provider. On vaccines.gov there is also an option to click for Bridge Access Program, as providers participating in the program are contractually obligated to add vaccine availability.

For answers to frequently asked questions about the updated COVID-19 vaccine, [click here \(John Hopkins\)](#).

### RSV

A vaccine for RSV has been approved by the FDA for [adults ages 60 and older](#). When an adult gets RSV infection, they typically have mild cold-like symptoms, but some may develop a lung infection, pneumonia, asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and congestive heart failure.

As a result, an RSV vaccine can help protect adults aged 60 years and older from severe RSV infection. individuals should discuss with their doctor whether it's right for them based on their personal risk factors. This vaccine is being offered at local pharmacies; however it is recommended to contact your health insurance company to determine the cost of the RSV vaccine. For more information, visit [www.cdc.gov/rsv/high-risk/older-adults.html](http://www.cdc.gov/rsv/high-risk/older-adults.html).

Please contact [icaruso@town.northborough.ma.us](mailto:icaruso@town.northborough.ma.us) with any questions!

