



Vaccines for Children Provider Notice

Pennsylvania Department of Health,
Bureau of Communicable Diseases, Division of Immunizations

February 2019

2018 Provider Satisfaction Survey

As a program provider, your opinion is important to the continued success of the VFC program. To help improve program quality, please complete the 2018 Pennsylvania Vaccines for Children Program Satisfaction Survey. Please have the VFC coordinator or office staff member most familiar with the program complete the survey by **March 1st, 2019**. Responses to this survey should be based on your VFC program experiences **during the 2018 calendar year**. The survey is available online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TKZ2Z29>

Vaccines for Children, CHIP and the State Health Centers

Background: The Vaccines for Children Program (VFC) provides vaccinations to children who do not have health insurance or children who are insured but the insurance does not cover immunizations. These children are eligible to receive federally funded vaccines at public sites, including Federally Qualified Health Centers and Rural Health Clinics.

Who is eligible for vaccines through the VFC Program?

The eligibility determination for children in Pennsylvania for both Medical Assistance (MA) / Medicaid and CHIP is income-based. If children are determined to be eligible for MA, they receive an ACCESS card which indicates to the provider that they are eligible to receive vaccines through the VFC program. Most MA beneficiaries are enrolled in a managed care organization (MCO), which means they have an insurance card for that MCO *plus* their ACCESS card. When an individual applies for MA and is determined to exceed the income limits for medical assistance (or Medicaid), any children under 19 are referred to CHIP. Children enrolled in CHIP do NOT receive an ACCESS card.

Children under CHIP are not eligible to receive VFC vaccines because they are considered insured, except in the following scenarios:

VFC eligibility scenario: Child is insured and ...	Insurance Status	VFC Eligible
Plan covers only a portion of the vaccine cost and has Medicaid as secondary insurance	Medicaid eligible	Yes
Has not yet met plan's deductible and has Medicaid as secondary insurance	Medicaid eligible	Yes
Has exceeded plan's annually allowed number of provider visits or insurance doesn't cover vaccines	Underinsured – Only through FQHC/RHC or deputized SHC	Yes
Cannot access health insurance due to being incarcerated	Uninsured	Yes

What is a State Health Center?

State Health Centers, funded by the Department of Health, provide both public health education and clinical services. The following eligibility requirements must be met by patients to receive immunizations through the State Health Centers:

- Uninsured and underinsured adults;
- Uninsured or underinsured children birth through age 18;
- American Indians or Alaska Native; or
- Enrolled in Medicaid.

Protection from Meningitis, “It Takes Two!”

Meningococcal disease can infect the brain, blood and spinal cord very quickly. Complications from meningitis can be life altering and permanent. Even with treatment, 10-15 percent of people with meningococcal disease die. Protection from meningitis starts by providing preteens and teens with the Meningococcal ACWY (MenACWY) vaccine. This vaccine covers four out of five meningococcal disease serogroups. The more recently available vaccine Meningococcal B or MenB, targets the fifth meningococcal serogroup “B” associated with meningitis. Bacteria that cause Meningococcal disease can be easily and rapidly spread from person to person. Teens and young adults are particularly at risk.

Click on the link below to watch *Meningitis B in 90 seconds* to learn more about why it takes two Meningococcal vaccines to protect against this dangerous disease. Then talk to your primary care provider about getting vaccinated.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jn8ko_pzsyY&feature=youtu.be

<https://meningitisbactionproject.org/>

Borrowing Influenza Vaccine: Guidelines

Providers cannot borrow state-supplied seasonal influenza vaccine for privately insured patients. Providers may use private stock seasonal influenza vaccine to vaccinate VFC eligible children if VFC seasonal influenza stock is not yet available. Those private stock doses used on VFC eligible children can later be replaced as VFC stock becomes available. Replacement must be made within 90 days unless clinic can justify delay.

This **one-directional borrowing** exception is unique to seasonal influenza vaccine and is a requirement of the CDC.

The following must be documented for every borrowed vaccine a patient receives:

- Vaccine name
- Private dose borrowed
- Reason vaccine borrowed
- Patient’s name
- Patient’s date of birth
- Date vaccine administered
- Date vaccine paid back
- Provider signature certifying accuracy and compliance with VFC requirements

To properly manage inventory and track influenza dose borrowing, VFC providers MUST:

- Maintain an inventory for VFC-eligible children, and a separate inventory for privately insured children;
- Manage private-stock inventory correctly, in order to replace any borrowed vaccine. Providers need to be certain any vaccine given is accounted for accurately;
- Be sure to not borrow more private-stock vaccine than was pre-booked through VFC flu order;
- Replace stock with the same product when borrowing from private-stock. List of VFC supplied Flu vaccines is available on the PA Division of Immunization webpage; and
- Replace borrowed vaccine dose for dose.

Should you have any questions please contact the DOH Bureau of Communicable Diseases, Division of Immunizations at [888-646-6864](tel:888-646-6864).

Please add the Vaccines For Children email to your address book: RA-pavfc@pa.gov