



Vaccines for Children (VFC) Provider Notice

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

March/April 2020

COVID-19: Updates for VFC Providers

The PA VFC program now has a section on the main page exclusively for updates regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

Providers can access this information by clicking the following link:

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/programs/immunizations/Pages/VFC.aspx>

When visiting the VFC Program main page, please note three important bulletins that impact our providers:

- [Suspension of Immunization Site Visits During COVID-19 – Outbreak Guidance to Providers](#)
- [Temporary Provider Office Closures Due to COVID-19 Outbreak - Requirements for VFC and 317 Vaccines Storage and Handling](#)
- [Maintaining Childhood Immunizations During COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

Re-enrollment update in response to COVID19

Please note the following changes regarding re-enrollment:

- **Re-enrollment will be on hold until further notice.** All sites that were in the process of re-enrolling have been switched back, and ordering abilities will be granted to all sites that remain in good standing.
- Those sites that have a site visit scheduled should reach out to the nurse assigned to their site as they will likely be rescheduling these visits.

Pennsylvania Immunization Conference (PIC) 2020 has been cancelled

The Pennsylvania Immunization Conference, scheduled for June 2020, has been cancelled.

The 2020 conference will not be rescheduled for a later date this year. We look forward to hosting PIC 2021 and will provide updates as we move into next year.

You Call The Shots Education Requirement: Update on Deadline

The annual VFC education deadline has been extended to June 30th, due to the impact of COVID-19. This date is subject to change. Educational modules can be accessed directly on their corresponding TCEO page:

- [You Call the Shots Module Ten- Course WB4266: Storage and Handling- 2020](#)
- [You Call the Shots Module Sixteen- Course WB4265: Vaccines for Children Program- 2020](#)

After completing the tests for both *You Call the Shots* modules, please print credentials and send to the VFC central office:

Fax: 717-214-7223 -or- Email: Paimmunizations@pa.gov

CDC Updated Vaccine Information Statements

CDC recently updated several **Vaccine Information Statements (VIS)**.

These include: Updated [DTaP](#) (Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis), [Td](#) (Tetanus and Diphtheria), [Tdap](#) (Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis), [Yellow Fever](#), and the “Your Child’s First Vaccines” [Multi-Vaccines](#) VISs have been posted. We encourage providers to begin using these VIS’s immediately, but stocks of the previous editions may be used until exhausted. For more information please visit the [VIS website](#).

2020 Immunization Schedules now available

The 2020 child/adolescent and adult immunization schedules have been published online on CDC’s website: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/index.html>. This site includes updates to the 2020 child/adolescent and adult immunization schedules and related schedule resources, including the parent friendly schedule and new catch-up schedule job aids.

- [18 years or younger immunization schedule, with schedules available for printing](#)
- [19 years or older immunization schedule, with schedules available for printing](#)

Immunization Quality Improvement for Providers (IQIP) At-A-Glance

IQIP is CDC’s national, provider-level immunization quality improvement (QI) program. IQIP replaced CDC’s AFIX program on July 1, 2019.

The purpose of IQIP is to promote and support the implementation of provider-level immunization quality improvement strategies designed to increase vaccine uptake among children and adolescents in adherence to the routine schedule recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).

IQIP provides technical assistance to support three core quality improvement strategies plus one optional custom quality improvement strategy developed at the awardee level to advance immunization priorities.

Further information can be found on the CDC’s [Immunization Quality Improvement for Providers \(IQIP\) webpage](#).

Tracking Vaccine Preventable Diseases in Pennsylvania

Vaccine-preventable diseases (VPDs), such as measles, mumps and whooping cough, are still a threat. They continue to infect Pennsylvania’s children and adults, resulting in hospitalizations and deaths every year. The Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) analyzes surveillance data to monitor disease trends, detect outbreaks and evaluate the effectiveness of disease control programs and policies. Below are some VPD trends in Pennsylvania.

Vaccine Preventable Disease Trends in Pennsylvania

- As of February 14, 2020, Pennsylvania had a total of 2,672 reported, confirmed and probable vaccine-preventable cases with onset in the 2019 MMWR year, which represents an increase of 65.6 percent from the previous year.
- There were 633 pertussis cases in 2019. This represents a 37 percent decrease from 2018.
- The 470 reported mumps cases in 2019 represented a 226 percent increase from 2018. A large number of the 2019 mumps cases were associated with multiple university outbreaks.
- There were 462 reported varicella cases in 2019, which represents a 19 percent decrease from the previous year.
- Fifteen confirmed invasive meningococcal disease cases were reported in 2019, which is a 15 percent increase compared to 2018.

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