



Iowa's Vaccines for Children Program

SPRING UPDATE WEBINAR

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Health and
Human Services

Presentation Outline

▶ Programmatic Updates & Reminders

- VFC Survey Findings
- Private Inventory Changes
- COVID-19 Vaccine Availability Changes
- MPOX Vaccine Commercialization
- MenABCWY vaccine
- FluLaval Prebook Error
- Trivalent Flu Vaccine for 2024-25 Season
- End of First RSV Immunization Season
- Upcoming Delivery Holds
- VFC Resolutions
- Td Supply Shortage

▶ General Immunization Updates

- IRIS 2.0
- Measles and MenY Health Alerts

▶ Improving Vaccination Rates

▶ Tips & Tricks to Avoid Common VFC Program Noncompliance Issues

▶ Q&A - Ask Your Questions!

Programmatic Updates & Reminders

VFC Provider Survey Results

- ▶ Thank you for responding!
- ▶ Feedback about the webinars:
 - Provide webinar Topics ahead of time
 - IRIS 2.0 updates
 - Tips & Tricks to improve vaccine rates
- ▶ Identified challenges:
 - Ordering cadence and reductions in orders
 - Not wasting vaccine, keeping varicella in-stock
 - Shipping timeframe and delivery services
 - COVID and private stock requirements
 - Funding to serve more people
 - Navigating website/finding resources

Private Inventory Requirement Changes from Federal VFC Program

- ▶ VFC providers are not required to meet the private inventory minimum requirement for COVID-19 vaccine or nirsevimab if they do not intend to vaccinate their private pay patients
- ▶ If a provider serves only Medicaid-eligible and no privately insured children, they are not required to privately purchase COVID-19 vaccine or nirsevimab

Changes effective 4/4/2024

Private Inventory Requirement Changes from Federal VFC Program, cont'd

- ▶ If VFC providers utilize this flexibility to not maintain private stock during this season, providers should explore if other in-network options exist for their privately insured patients to access COVID-19 vaccine and nirsevimab
- ▶ **For VFC patients:** In locations where providers report that demand is low, order the minimum packaging of COVID-19 vaccine and nirsevimab that is feasible

Changes effective 4/4/2024

Updated VFC Operations Guide Available



Health and
Human Services

Public Health

Iowa's Vaccines for Children Program Operations Guide 2023-2024

Immunization Program

Updated April 29, 2024

[VFC Operations Guide - 2023-2024](#)



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COVID-19 Vaccine Availability Changes

▶ **Novavax:**

- Latest 2023-2024 expiry is 5/31/2024.
- Discontinued provider ordering on 4/30/2024.

▶ **Moderna:**

- Latest 2023-2024 expiry for 6m-11yo and 12yo+ vaccines is late September or better.
- Moderna indicates supply sufficient to meet demand between now and when 2024-2025 vaccine is available.
- We anticipate continued provider ordering.

COVID-19 Vaccine Availability Changes, cont'd

▶ Pfizer:

- Latest 2023-2024 expiry is 7/31/2024 (6m-4yo) and 8/31/2024 (5-11y and 12yo+ refrigerated/never frozen).
 - Discontinued provider ordering 6m-4yo on 4/30/2024.
 - Will discontinue 5-11 yo end of contract (June 6) and late May/early June for 12yo+.
 - Will continue provider orders for 12yo+ until Pfizer's inventory is depleted, for 5-11yo until June 6.
- ▶ Iowa VFC Program will notify providers of changes

MPOX Vaccine Commercialization

- ▶ Bavarian Nordic, manufacturer of JYNNEOS, launched the vaccine on the commercial market as of April 1, 2024
- ▶ JYNNEOS will be added to VFC Program at a later date
- ▶ Anticipate JYNNEOS not be considered a routine vaccine and most VFC Providers will not need to carry

- ▶ **Action item:** None at this time

Penbraya – MenABCWY vaccine

- ▶ Pentavalent Meningococcal vaccine with protection against serogroups A, B, C, W and Y
- ▶ Can be used when both MenACWY and MenB are indicated at the same visit
- ▶ [MenABCWY Vaccine Update](#)
- ▶ [MenABCWY Vaccine Summary](#)
- ▶ <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/vacc-specific/mening.html>

- ▶ **Action Item:** Penbraya available for order on May 1, 2024.

FluLaval Prebook Error in IRIS

- ▶ Error in 2024-25 Influenza Vaccine Prebook
 - Only affected Pediatric FluLaval quad P-free, NDC 19515-0810-52
 - VFC Program has contacted affected clinics, however we may have missed some sites
- ▶ **Action item:** Check prebook in IRIS for FluLaval. If incorrect, please email correct amount to iowaVFC@idph.iowa.gov

Trivalent Influenza Vaccine for 2024-25 Season

- ▶ All flu vaccines for the 2024-2025 season are anticipated to be trivalent
 - Formulated to protect against three flu viruses (an A(H1N1) virus, an A(H3N2) virus, and a B/Victoria virus).
 - B/Yamagata flu viruses have not circulated in the population after March 2020, so protection from trivalent and quadrivalent flu vaccines is expected to be similar.
- ▶ **Action item:** None at this time. VFC Program will update IRIS with trivalent vaccine names and NDCs

More info: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/season/faq-flu-season-2024-2025.htm>

End of First RSV Immunization Season

- ▶ Seasonal recommendation for infants and toddlers and pregnant women ended for the 2023-24 season
 - Vaccines no longer orderable in IRIS
 - Thank you for your patience!
- ▶ Remaining VFC supply of Nirsevimab and Abrysvo cannot be returned to McKesson and should be kept for the next RSV season
- ▶ **Action Item:** Labeled immunizations as “Keep for Fall” and stored appropriately for next season (anticipated start date of October 1, 2024)

Upcoming Delivery Holds

- ▶ Deliveries made Tuesday – Friday by UPS & FedEx
 - McKesson may place temporary holds due to severe weather conditions in Iowa or at the warehouse site
- ▶ Review and update delivery hours with each order
 - Required to have at least four hour consecutive hours on a day other than a Monday to receive shipments
- ▶ Upcoming delivery holds this quarter:
 - Friday, May 24
 - Monday, May 27
 - Wednesday, June 19

Continuing to Reduce Vaccine Loss

- ▶ Vaccine loss for mid-year report 4.12% (7/1 – 12/31)
 - Calculation excludes influenza and COVID-19 vaccines
- ▶ You are the key to avoiding unnecessary vaccine loss!
 - Update S&H Plan
 - You Call the Shots trainings
 - Staff education
 - Avoid over ordering
 - Transfer soon to expire vaccines
 - Rotate stock
 - Quick response to S&H excursions

VFC Resolution Update: Tetanus and Diphtheria Toxoid Containing Vaccines

- ▶ CDC recommends a primary series of 5 DTaP vaccines for children. For children aged <7 years who developed a contraindication to pertussis-containing vaccines, CDC previously recommended DT instead of DTaP
 - However, there is no DT vaccine available in the U.S. anymore
 - Td is licensed for ages ≥ 7 years but contains a lower dose of diphtheria toxoid compared to DT
 - For young children who develop a contraindication to pertussis containing vaccines, vaccine providers may administer Td for all recommended remaining doses in place of DTaP
- ▶ Supply constraint of Td vaccines through 2024 due to discontinuation of TdVax. Tenivac supply is expected to increase
- ▶ <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/vfc/downloads/resolutions/D-TaP-508.pdf>

Tenivac Supply Shortage

- ▶ Due to allocation and supply shortage, Tenivac will have been removed from order form in IRIS.
- ▶ Like PPSV23, the Iowa VFC Program has limited supply
- ▶ VFC Providers can request doses by contacting Iowa VFC Program
- ▶ **Action item:** Contact VFC Program regarding ordering Tenivac.

General Immunization Updates

Transition to IRIS 2.0

- ▶ **Timeline:** late Q3 2024 into Q1 2025
- ▶ **Training:** Iowa Immunization Program will communicate training dates for IRIS 2.0 in future listserv updates
- ▶ **Action Item specific to VFC Program:** None at this time
 - **Review regular IRIS Updates:** Continue to review regular updates provided by the Iowa Immunization Program and share the updates with other IRIS users within the organization
 - **Check Data Exchange Specifications:** Provider organizations are encouraged to validate with existing Electronic Medical Record (EMR) vendors which HL7 guide is currently being utilized. IRIS data exchange specifications are found in the forms tab of the [IRIS website](#)
- ▶ Users may contact the IRIS Program at irisenrollment@idph.iowa.gov with any questions about the IRIS transition

2024 Monthly IRIS Webinars

- ▶ Topics will include:
 - documentation of vaccine doses administered
 - IRIS inventory management
 - mass vaccination
 - reminder recall
 - vaccine transfers
 - documentation of vaccine wastage
 - patient search tips
 - how to unlock user accounts and reset user passwords
- ▶ Registration is required for each session, or users can join at <https://www.zoomgov.com/join>
- ▶ Full 2024 IRIS webinar schedule is available [here](#)
- ▶ Contact the IRIS Help Desk at 800-374-3958 with any questions

Measles Health Alerts & Resources

- ▶ [CDC HAN Health Advisory](#)
- ▶ **Action item:** Healthcare providers should ensure children are current on routine immunizations, including MMR
- ▶ **Cases:** Report Immediately by phone to Iowa HHS Division of Public Health, Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE) at (800) 362-2736 or after hours (515) 323- 4360

Invasive Serogroup Y Meningococcal Disease Health Alerts & Resources

- ▶ [CDC HAN Advisory](#)
- ▶ **Action item:** Ensure all people recommended for meningococcal vaccination, including people with HIV, are up to date for meningococcal vaccines
- ▶ **Cases:** Report Immediately by phone to CADE at (800) 362-2736 or after hours (515) 323- 4360

Improving Vaccination Rates

Facilitate Return for Vaccination

- ▶ Scheduling the next immunization visit before the patient leaves the provider site
 - Scheduling protocol to ensure appointments are scheduled for all future vaccines needed
 - Scheduling well-child and nurse-only visits
- ▶ Reminder and recall system and appointment reminders
 - Utilize mixed formats: Text messages, portal messages, e-mails, postcards, phone calls to remind of upcoming appointments
 - School required vaccine reminders

Vaccine Policy Statement

- ▶ Use a policy statement to reflect your clinic's statement of support for the vital role vaccination plays to prevent serious illness and to save lives
- ▶ Examples:
 - [Iowa Draft Vaccine Policy Statement](#)
 - <https://www.immunize.org/wp-content/uploads/catg.d/p2067.pdf>

Tips & Tricks to Avoid Common VFC Program Noncompliance Issues

How to ace your next site visit!

Types of VFC Visits

- ▶ Enrollment Visits
- ▶ Compliance Visits
- ▶ Drop in Storage & Handling Visits

Enrollment Site Visit

- ▶ Required to enroll in the VFC Program.
- ▶ The purpose of the enrollment site visit is to:
 - Educate providers about VFC program requirements
 - Educate providers on proper vaccine storage and handling
 - Certify provider locations have the appropriate resources to implement requirements
 - Confirm providers know whom to contact if problems arise, especially with storage and handling issues
 - Complete paperwork, including Vaccine Management Plan
- ▶ Vaccine will not be shipped until the enrollment site visit is complete

Drop-In Storage & Handling Visits

- ▶ Serve as a “spot check” for proper S&H practices
- ▶ Providers are prioritized and selected based on the provider’s previous history with storage and handling compliance issues
- ▶ Goal is to provide guidance and education on proper storage and handling to ensure all VFC-eligible children receive properly managed vaccines

Compliance Site Visit

- ▶ Federal guidelines require the VFC Program to conduct compliance site visits at each VFC enrolled facility
- ▶ The purpose of the site visit is to:
 - Review VFC eligibility screening procedures
 - Verify information in the provider profile
 - Administer the VFC provider site visit questionnaire
 - Review VFC vaccine administration, storage and handling
 - Ensure VFC Program policies are being properly implemented
 - Provide feedback and, as necessary, request corrective action and follow up of identified issues

VFC Compliance Visits

- ▶ **Required** at least every 24 months
- ▶ Full site visit takes approximately 90-120 minutes
- ▶ VFC nurse clinician will reach out to schedule
- ▶ Calendar invite and reminder email will be sent containing items and information to be available during the on-site visit

VFC Compliance Visits - Who

- ▶ Include the site manager, the VFC primary and secondary contacts and any staff members responsible for immunization practices at your site
- ▶ A knowledgeable billing person should be present, logged on or available by phone during the site visit as important information surrounding billing practices for VFC vaccine administration fees is needed

VFC Compliance Visits - What

- ▶ Training Documentation of CDC's You Call the Shots modules:
 - Vaccines For Children
 - Vaccine Storage and Handling
- ▶ Documentation of vaccine administration fee charged to VFC-eligible patients
- ▶ VFC eligibility screening documentation
- ▶ Clinic immunization records (hard copy or electronic) for children age 0 through 18 to assess VFC eligibility screening
- ▶ VFC borrowing document(s) (if applicable)

VFC Compliance Visits - What

- ▶ Current Vaccine Information Statements (VIS) for all vaccines administered at the clinic
 - Including influenza when “in season”
- ▶ Current and completed vaccine storage and handling plan
- ▶ Current and past temperature logs, both the hand written and electronic data logs for refrigerator(s), freezer(s) and Ultra cold freezer (if applicable) **for the last 3 months** or up to 3 years if issues are found
- ▶ Certificate(s) of calibration for all appropriate thermometers/data loggers including the back-up thermometer

VFC Compliance Visits - Where

- ▶ A meeting/workspace with access to a power supply
- ▶ Access to all VFC vaccine storage units, both inside and outside the unit
 - All units storing VFC vaccines – fridge, freezer, ultra cold
 - demonstrating where the temperature probes are placed, vaccine placement, etc.
- ▶ Access to the breaker box that controls the outlets the storage units are plugged into
- ▶ Any portable vaccine storage units used for transport or off site clinics

VFC Non-Compliance Issues

- ▶ Disconnection from Power Source
- ▶ Temperature Monitoring Device
- ▶ Training Requirements

Disconnection from power source

Requirement: Take precautions to protect the storage unit's power supply, such as:

- ▶ Plug in only one storage unit per electrical outlet, unit is directly plugged into wall outlet
 - Not plugged into a GFI outlet, extension cord or power strip
- ▶ Post “Do Not Unplug” warning signs at outlets and on storage units
- ▶ Label fuses and circuit breakers to alert people not to turn off power to storage units
 - Labels should include immediate steps to take if power is interrupted
- ▶ Use a safety-lock plug or an outlet cover to prevent unit from being unplugged

Action Step: Review measures taken to ensure vaccine storage units are not accidentally physically disconnected from power supply

TMD Data Review

Requirement:

- ▶ Frequent temperature monitoring allows providers to determine exactly how long temperatures were out of range in the event of a temperature excursion
 - Manufacturers can make a more accurate determination regarding viability
 - Increased precision can help providers decrease vaccine loss
- ▶ Continuous monitoring and recording capabilities where the data can be routinely downloaded and reviewed every two weeks and whenever the data logger alarms

Action Step:

- ▶ Ensure TMD review meets VFC requirements

Staff Required Training

Requirement:

- ▶ Primary & Back-up vaccine coordinators required to complete two of CDC's You Call the Shots Modules each year
 - [Vaccines For Children \(VFC\)](#)
 - [Vaccine Storage and Handling](#)
- ▶ Receipt of CEUs not required
 - CDC's CE system now through [CDC TRAIN](#), not TCEO

Action Step:

- ▶ Complete the two You Call the Shots Modules
- ▶ Can complete prior to annual re-enrollment in July

Staff IRIS Access

Recommendation:

- ▶ Primary & Back-up vaccine coordinators recommended to have IRIS Admin Access to complete VFC related activities
- ▶ Recommended to complete ahead of annual re-enrollment

Action Step:

- ▶ Verify IRIS Admin Access
- ▶ Complete [IRIS Authorized Site Agreement-Organization](#) if primary or back-up coordinators do not have IRIS Admin Access

Storage Unit – discontinuation of household combination freezer

Requirement:

- ▶ After July 1st, providers will not be able to use the freezer in a household combination unit
 - Some providers were allowed to continue with combination units, but should transition to stand alone or pharmaceutical freezer

Action Step:

- ▶ Any current providers with an excursion not attributable to another cause will need to purchase a stand alone freezer

2024 VFC Webinar Series

- ▶ Remaining webinars on July 24, and November 20, from 12:00-1:00 p.m.
- ▶ Attendance is not required, but highly recommended, even for experienced VFC Program Providers
- ▶ Webinars are recorded and can be found on Iowa VFC website
- ▶ Register at https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_VE38jdbKQje2sr87WyqgFg

Ordering Replacement DDLs

- ▶ Immunization Program has Log Tag 400s available to VFC Providers at no cost
- ▶ Send email request to iowaVFC@idph.iowa.gov

VFC Resources

- ▶ Iowa HHS Immunization Program: <https://hhs.iowa.gov/public-health/immunization>
- ▶ VFC Program: <https://hhs.iowa.gov/public-health/immunization/vaccines-children-program>
- ▶ Iowa HHS Immunization Materials: [Online order form](#)
- ▶ Iowa Public Health Tracking Portal - Immunization Data: <https://hhs.iowa.gov/iowa-public-health-tracking-portal/health/immunization>

Questions

Iowa VFC Program

IowaVFC@idph.iowa.gov

Phone: 1-800-831-6293

Fax: 1-800-831-6292



Health and
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Question and Answer Session:

Question 1: Can you send information on who to contact for the bridge program for flu and COVID vaccines?

Answer: BAP questions can be emailed to IowaVFC@idph.iowa.gov or you can call 800-831-6293.

Question 2: Can you post the NDC for the FLuLaval please.

Answer: The NDC for FluLaval for the 2024-2025 season is 19515-0810-52

Question 3: Can the monthly IRIS webinars be on alternated days of the week? They are all on Tuesdays, my day off.

Answer: We will provide this feedback to the IRIS helpdesk.

Question 4: Synagis is no longer an option to choose in IRIS. Can this be added back? This is still given during RSV season.

Answer: Synagis administrations should still be reported in IRIS. Please contact the IRIS helpdesk for assistance: 1-800-374-3958. Synagis is not available through the VFC Program. Beyfortus, a different RSV product, will be available through the VFC Program to order in the fall 2024.

Question 5: Upon hire I was told all staff needs to take the CDC courses if they were even just going to unload vaccines but they are not the coordinator or back-up. Is that true? Or just the two are required to take the training?

Answer: Only the primary and back-up vaccine coordinators are required to complete the CDC's web-based modules, "You Call the Shots" each year. However, it is a best practice for others involved in immunization to be trained in storage and handling.

Question 6: How do we sign up for the VFC Program listserv?

Answer: We add primary and back-up coordinators, but can add additional staff if requested. Please send an email request to IowaVFC@idph.iowa.gov.

Question 7: If I have access to IRIS, do I need to submit another form each year?

Answer: No, you do not need to resubmit paperwork regarding IRIS enrollment each year. If you would like to change your access from standard user to IRIS Admin user, please complete the [IRIS Authorized Site Agreement-Organization](#) and send to the IRIS helpdesk.

Question 8: We provide both private and VFC vaccine. If we provide RSV and COVID-19 vaccines to our VFC patients, are we not required to offer it to the private vaccine population as well?

Answer: VFC providers are not required to meet the private inventory minimum requirement for COVID-19 vaccine or nirsevimab if they do not intend to vaccinate their private pay patients. If VFC providers utilize this flexibility to not maintain private stock during this season, providers should explore if other in-network options exist for their privately insured patients to access COVID-19 vaccine and nirsevimab.

Question 9: If we have a teen coming in to the STI clinic and they want the HPV vaccine and have private insurance, but do not want their parents to know. Can VFC vaccine be used?

Answer: Yes, per the VFC Operations Guide: "Persons 18 years of age and younger who do not know their insurance status and who present at family planning clinics for contraceptive services or STD treatment can be considered uninsured for the purposes of the VFC Program.

Persons 18 years of age and younger who may have insurance but because of the confidential circumstances for seeking services in a family planning clinic does not have access to insurance coverage is considered uninsured for the purposes of the VFC Program."

Question 10: Can we get the resources links put in the Q and A?

Answer:

Iowa HHS Immunization Program: <https://hhs.iowa.gov/public-health/immunization>

VFC Program: <https://hhs.iowa.gov/public-health/immunization/vaccines-children-program>

Iowa HHS Immunization Materials: [Online order form](#)

Iowa Public Health Tracking Portal - Immunization Data: <https://hhs.iowa.gov/iowa-public-health-tracking-portal/health/immunization>

Question 11: We have been seeing more refugees coming to our clinic without insurance. Our local IDPH is not always available how can we help so these new kids can get to school.

Answer: Patients without health insurance are considered VFC-eligible, so you would be able to administer ACIP and school-required vaccines. It could be beneficial to collaborate with your local public health to do a back school clinic or some other event to assist in administered school required vaccines.

Question 12: What will the schedule look like for the new Penbraya immunization?

Answer: Pfizer's MenABCWY vaccine may be used when both MenACWY and MenB are indicated at the same visit. Currently, there are no changes to the schedule for the MenACWY and MenB vaccines. The B component of the MenABCWY vaccine is MenB-FHbp (Trumenba). Administration of a B component vaccine (MenB or MenABCWY) requires that subsequent B component vaccine doses be from the same manufacturer.

Question 13: Will there be a new formulation of COVID-19 vaccine this fall?

Answer: We anticipate a new formulation of COVID-19 vaccine for the 2024-25 season, and will learn more during this summer's upcoming ACIP meetings. The Iowa VFC Program will notify VFC Providers of any changes.

Question 14: Is the pneumonia shot going to be PCV20 instead of PCV15 for kids. I see the PCV15 is still available to order.

Answer: PCV15 is approved for use in children, and both PCV15 and PCV20 are available to order through the VFC Program. The Iowa VFC Program will notify VFC Providers of any changes.

Question 15: Can you put up the link to register for the next training?

Answer: The remaining webinars will be held on July 24 and November 20, from 12:00-1:00 p.m. Please register at

https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_VE38jdbKQje2sr87WyqgFg.