



Iowa's Vaccines for Children Program

SUMMER UPDATE WEBINAR

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July 24, 2024

Presentation Outline

- ▶ Programmatic Updates & Reminders
 - New Iowa HHS email addresses
 - Annual re-enrollment due July 29, 2024
 - Influenza vaccine return process
 - Trivalent Flu Vaccine for 2024-25 Season
 - MPOX Vaccine Commercialization
 - Upcoming Delivery Holds
 - Eligibility – Out of State Medicaid
 - VFC Resolutions

- ▶ General Immunization Updates
 - IRIS 2.0 & Webinars
 - Iowa Immunization Summit
 - Iowa Certificates of Immunization

- ▶ Improving Vaccination Rates

- ▶ Tips & Tricks to Avoid Common VFC Program Noncompliance Issues

- ▶ Q&A - Ask Your Questions!

Programmatic Updates & Reminders

New Iowa HHS Emails & Staff Directory

Immunization Program Directory

| | | | |
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VFC Re-enrollment due by July 29, 2024

- ▶ Each VFC Provider is **required** to re-enroll in the VFC Program on an annual basis, which will occur July 15-29, 2024
- ▶ Part 1: Training:
 - Primary and back-up vaccine coordinators are required to complete two of CDC's "[You Call the Shots](#)" modules:
 - [Vaccine Storage and Handling - Jan 2024](#)
 - [Vaccines for Children \(VFC\) - Jan 2024](#)
- ▶ Part 2: Update IRIS Contacts & Complete Re-enrollment page:
 - In IRIS under "Edit Organization," review the generated VFC Patient Activity chart
 - Review and update the organization's contacts, including address and email, and providers practicing at the facility
 - Last step is to complete the VFC Re-enrollment form

VFC Re-enrollment due by July 29, 2024

- Enrollment occurs in IRIS
 - Iowa VFC Program does not accept any paper forms
 - Do not fax or email forms to the Iowa VFC Program
- Only IRIS Admin users have access to complete the VFC re-enrollment:
 - To add additional Admin Users, complete the [IRIS Site Enrollment Form](#) and send to IRISenrollment@hhs.iowa.gov
- Failure to complete the re-enrollment process by July 29 will result in suspension and the inability to place VFC vaccine orders in IRIS.
- **Action: Complete Re-enrollment by July 29, 2024**

Staff IRIS Access

Recommendation:

- ▶ Primary & Back-up vaccine coordinators recommended to have IRIS Admin Access to complete VFC related activities

Action Step:

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

VFC Re-enrollment due by July 29, 2024

VFC re-enrollment demonstration

1) Primary and back-up vaccine coordinators are required to complete two of CDC's "[You Call the Shots](#)" modules:

- [Vaccine Storage and Handling - Jan 2024](#)
- [Vaccines for Children \(VFC\) - Jan 2024](#)

2) IRIS: <https://iris.iowa.gov/>

VFC & Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Return

- Seasonal influenza VFC vaccines expired on June 30, 2024
- VFC Providers are **expected** to return **all spoiled and expired VFC vaccines** as soon as possible within the first 30 days but not to exceed six months after expiration date
 - Single dose syringes, unopened single dose vials, and only full, unopened multi-dose vials to McKesson
 - Products in open boxes can be returned, however opened multi-dose vials cannot be returned
- [Nonviable Vaccine Return Instructions](#): IRIS contains functionality to manage nonviable vaccine returns, including notifications prompting providers to return nonviable VFC vaccines to McKesson

Influenza Vaccine Return Process

- **Maintain current VFC Vaccine Delivery contact information in IRIS**
 - Update contact information under Edit Organization prior to completing return
- **Return single dose syringes, unopened single dose vials, and only full, unopened multi-dose vials**
- **Print nonviable vaccine return list** from the Manage Returns page using the blue hyperlink and include the return list in the box
- **Print the UPS postage paid return label emailed from McKesson**
 - Label is sent to the “Main Contact Information” e-mail address listed in IRIS.
 - Not Immediately Processed - May take up to a week to send the email
 - All McKesson return label communications will come UPS Quantum View pkginfo@ups.com
 - Providers should confirm that this e-mail address will not be blocked by their e-mail spam filters and check spam/junk folder for labels
- **Do NOT return vaccines not included on the return list**
- **Contact Iowa VFC Program with questions or concerns**

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>

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 later
- ▶ Anticipate JYNNEOS not be considered a routine vaccine and most VFC Providers will not need to carry

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

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:
 - August 30
 - September 2 and 9
 - October 11 and 14

MenQuadfi Ordering Change

- ▶ MenQuadfi (MenACWY)
 - Transitioning from 5 pack of single dose vials to 10 pack of single dose vials
 - Will update IRIS ordering form

Upcoming Respiratory Season

- ▶ Influenza Vaccine:
 - Will ship as soon as received in CDC warehouse
 - Will notify VFC Providers
 - Allocation model from CDC
- ▶ Maternal RSV Vaccine:
 - Ordering to start in August
 - Administration to start September 1
 - Anticipate allocation model from CDC
- ▶ Nirsevimab (RSV) infant product:
 - Ordering to start in September
 - Administration to start October 1
 - Anticipate allocation model from CDC

Commonly Asked Question: Can I use VFC vaccines for a child with out of State Medicaid?

- ▶ Yes!
- ▶ VFC-eligible children, regardless of the state of residence, may be seen at Iowa VFC enrolled provider sites and receive vaccine provided by the Iowa VFC Program.
- ▶ Providers vaccinating Medicaid-enrolled children from another state must enroll as a Medicaid provider in that state to bill for a vaccine administration fee and/or office visit fee.

ACIP Meeting June 26-28, 2024

Vaxelis (DTap-IPV-HiB-HepB) VFC Resolution Updates:

- ▶ American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) children have a 31-fold higher incidence of invasive *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) disease than non-Native children.
- ▶ PedvaxHIB (PRP-OMP) is preferentially recommended for AI/AN infants;
- ▶ Vaxelis did not have a preferential recommendation due to a lower amount of PedvaxHIB and post-dose 1 immunogenicity data were not previously available.
- ▶ ACIP recommends Vaxelis should be included with PedvaxHIB in the preferential recommendation for AI/AN infants based on Hib component.
- ▶ ACIP recommends the approval of VFC resolution for vaccines to prevent Hib, adopted by the CDC Director on June 26.

ACIP Meeting June 26-28, 2024

Respiratory Vaccine Recommendations:

- ▶ **COVID-19:** ACIP recommends 2024-2025 COVID-19 vaccines for persons 6 months and older.
- ▶ **Influenza:** ACIP reaffirms the recommendation for routine annual influenza vaccination for persons 6 months and older who do not have contraindications
- ▶ Recommendations have been adopted by the CDC Director on June 27, 2024 and are now official.

Resources:

- <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/acip/meetings/slides-2024-06-26-28.html>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/acip/recommendations.html>

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 using the freezer in a household combination unit with an excursion not attributable to another cause will need to purchase a stand alone freezer

General Immunization Updates

Transition to IRIS 2.0

- ▶ **Timeline:** 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@hhs.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

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IMMUNIZATION SUMMIT



Monday, September 9, 2024



FFA Convention Center
1055 SW Prairie Trail Pkwy, Ankeny, IA 50023

Keynote Speakers:

The Erins from the hit podcast:
"This Podcast with Kill You"

Registration now open!

<https://bit.ly/immsummit2024>



Register here



Chapter 7 Immunization Requirements Update

▶ Immunization Requirements Table Language Changes:

- Language removed regarding the phased in approach of immunization requirements, incorporate footnotes into the table when possible and clarify vaccine dose requirements for vaccines with age indications based upon administration.
 - Vaccine and dose requirements for licensed child care and schools were not changed.
 - Vaccines previously phased in by date of birth now include all grades. The language regarding the phased approach is no longer necessary and was removed.

Chapter 7 Immunization Requirements Update

► Religious Certificate of Immunization Exemption

Changes:

- Removal of language requiring a notary signature for the certificate to be valid.
- Clarification that language included on the religious certificate of immunization exemption referencing rule 641—7.3(139A) cannot be altered. Any edits or alterations to the certificate referencing rule 641—7.3(139A) will invalidate the certificate.

Chapter 7 Immunization Requirements Update

- ▶ Previous versions of the immunization certificates remain valid and student records do not need to be updated.
- ▶ Updated immunization certificates available
 - New Certificate of Immunization only includes required vaccines and no other recommended vaccines
- ▶ [Letter outlining changes to Chapter 7](#)
- ▶ [Frequently asked questions document](#)
- ▶ Contact Jessica Schultz at Jessica.Schultz@hhs.iowa.gov or Shelly Jensen at Shelly.Jensen@hhs.iowa.gov with questions

Improving Vaccination Rates

Fostering a Culture of Immunization in Your Practice: An Interactive Online Training

- ▶ Vaccination is important at every stage of life, providing essential health benefits and contributing to individual well-being and public health. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in collaboration with the [Public Health Foundation](#), released a new online training course, [Fostering a Culture of Immunization in Your Practice](#).
- ▶ The self-guided online course provides health care professionals with practical strategies and resources to help create a positive culture of immunization in their clinics, ensuring the best possible care for patients and promoting vaccination efforts.
- ▶ It consists of 4 segments:
 - **Lesson I** – Fostering a Culture of Immunization
 - **Lesson II** – Importance of Immunization and Factors Impacting Vaccine Uptake
 - **Lesson III** – 5 Strategies for Fostering a Culture of Immunization
 - **Scenario Based Learning Activity**
- ▶ Visit [CDC TRAIN](#) to complete and receive continuing education (CE) credit for the course.

Proactive Back To School Strategies to consider

- ▶ **Use IRIS and your EHR** to identify children who missed well child visits and/or recommended immunizations.
- ▶ **Reach out to schedule in-person appointments**
- ▶ **Plan back-to-school immunization catch-up clinics** at convenient times for working parents, including weekends and evenings.
- ▶ **Administer needed immunizations at ALL visits**, not just well-child checks.
- ▶ **Designate a certain number of “vaccine-only” appointments** each day leading up to school entry.
- ▶ **Use effective communication techniques & strong recommendations.** Start with language that assumes a parent will accept vaccines for their child (e.g., “Your child needs three vaccines today.”). [Be prepared to answer any questions and address concerns.](#) Make a strong recommendation and share reasons why you support immunizations; personal accounts can be persuasive and memorable.

Strategies adapted from California Department of Health Immunization Branch

CDC's Let's Rise Initiative

- ▶ CDC's [Let's RISE Initiative webpage](#):
 - Help share facts about routine vaccines, including that [vaccines are safe](#).
 - Share [childhood vaccination digital content](#) from CDC's "Keeps It That Way" communication effort and [catch-up messages](#) on your websites and social media channels.
 - [Remind and recall](#) families whose child is behind on vaccinations to get up to date.
 - Expand access to vaccines by knowing [where](#) to refer a child for free vaccines and/or support [school-located vaccination clinics](#).
- ▶ Free Online Partner Vaccination Toolkits with actionable, downloadable, editable resources to support strengthening school vaccination coverage:
 - Early care and education providers: [Vaccination Toolkits for early care and education providers](#)
 - Schools: [Ways Schools Can Support Routine Vaccination Catch-Up Among School-Aged Children](#)
 - Health care providers: [Evidence-based Strategies and Resources to Increase Routine Vaccination Rates and Confidence](#)

Tips & Tricks to Avoid Common VFC Program Noncompliance Issues

How to ace your next site visit!

2023-24 Fiscal Year Summary

- ▶ Ended Year with 596 Enrolled VFC Providers

- ▶ Completed 355 Provider Visits
 - 322 Compliance Site Visits
 - 4 Unannounced S&H Visits
 - 29 new Site Visits

VFC Non-Compliance Issues

- ▶ Potential issues to tackle during re-enrollment:
 - Changes to Key Staff
 - Vaccine Management Plan
 - Training Requirements
 - Expired Vaccines

Reporting Changes to Key Staff

Requirement: All changes in key staff must be communicated to Iowa Immunization Program

- ▶ IRIS Admin users can update Edit Organization Page
 - Primary, back-up, and vaccine delivery contacts
- ▶ Primary & Back-up vaccine coordinators required to complete two You Call the Shots Modules
 - [Vaccines For Children \(VFC\)](#)
 - [Vaccine Storage and Handling](#)

Action Steps:

- ▶ Review contacts in IRIS Edit Organization page during Re-enrollment

VFC Storage & Handling Plan

Requirement:

- ▶ Vaccine S&H Plan must be reviewed and updated at least annually
- ▶ Update changes in standard operating procedures
 - Whenever S&H recommendations of vaccines are updated
 - New vaccines are added to inventory
- ▶ Update when change in staff that has responsibilities specified in the plan
- ▶ Update review date on document

Action Steps:

- ▶ Review clinic S&H Plan today with all immunization staff

Staff Training

Requirement:

- ▶ VFC providers must annually train ALL staff with vaccine management responsibilities on proper vaccine storage and handling procedures
- ▶ Staff training must be documented and included as part of the facility's [Vaccine Storage and Handling Plan Template](#)

Action Steps:

- ▶ Action Item: Review the [Vaccine Storage and Handling Plan Template](#) with ALL staff with vaccine management responsibilities, including after key staffing changes

Expired Vaccines

Requirement:

- ▶ Expiration dates should be checked regularly (at least monthly) and stock should be rotated to ensure the soonest to expire is in front.
 - CDC best practice is to rotate weekly and whenever new vaccine is received.
- ▶ Expiration dates vary by type of vaccine or diluent and lot number.
 - Expiration dates that list only month and year are viable through the last day of the month.
 - Multi-dose vials of vaccine shall be administered until the expiration date printed on the vial or vaccine package unless otherwise noted in the vaccine package insert.

Action Steps:

- ▶ Rotate vaccine and check expiration dates
- ▶ Remove expired vaccines and diluents to avoid accidental administration
- ▶ Return all spoiled/expired public vaccines to CDC's centralized vaccine distributor within six months of spoilage/expiration
- ▶ Returns occur in IRIS - Providers must manage returns in IRIS and receive shipping label

2024 VFC Webinar Series

- ▶ Remaining webinar from 12-1 p.m. on November 20
- ▶ 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@hhs.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@hhs.iowa.gov

Phone: 1-800-831-6293

Fax: 1-800-831-6292



Health and
Human Services

Question & Answer Session:

Iowa HHS Transitions:

Question: If we didn't receive the updated immunization contacts, what do we need to do?

Answer: The Iowa VFC Program will update the listserv system with the attendees of this webinar and changes made during the re-enrollment. You can also send an email to iowaVFC@hhs.iowa.gov to be added to the list.

Question: Will the links within IRIS be updated to go to the new HHS website? They seem to be directed to the old IDPH website still.

Answer: Yes, we will work with the IRIS team to update the links.

VFC Re-enrollment:

Question: Do we need to complete the 2 trainings each year?

Answer: Yes. Both modules need to be completed each year by the Primary and Back up VFC Contacts for each VFC Site.

Question: As primary contact person, I did complete the re-enrollment videos, however, I wanted to make sure that I received the certificate to keep on file. How can I do that?

Answer: Please contact CDC TRAIN for additional guidance. Here is the contact information for CDC TRAIN: [Contact CDC TRAIN](#).

Storage & Handling:

Question: Should the temperature monitor for a refrigerator be set to alarm at 2c and 8c or 1.9 and 8.1 for min and max to alarm?

Answer: The actual parameters for refrigerator temperatures are 2.0C and 8.0C, so a 2.0 is an appropriate temperature, but a 1.9C is not in range. Clinics can set DDL to alarm at 2.0 to give a warning prior to going out of range, otherwise it can be set for 1.9C as to not exceed 1.9C.

Question: Can a facility use a refrigerator/freezer as a backup very short -term? It is monitored daily with data loggers.

Answer: Please contact the Iowa VFC Program at iowaVFC@hhs.iowa.gov to discuss this situation.

Returning expired/spoiled VFC Vaccine:

Question: What if I submitted for a return label but did not receive it?

Answer: Please contact the Iowa VFC Program at iowaVFC@hhs.iowa.gov or 1-800-831-6293. We can request a new shipping label.

Question: If I have one dose of Moderna COVID-19 that is beyond use date, do I return just one dose or separate it and return at expiration date or return the one dose now?

Answer: You can send it back or wait until the entire lot has expired. It is up to you.

HIB Vaccine:

Question: For haemophilus influenzae, there is the slide stating that Vaxelis and PedVaxHib are preferred for native children, does that mean that ActHib is not preferred?

Answer: Vaxelis and Pedvax are preferential recommendation for American Indian and Alaska Native infants based on the Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) component. ActHib is still an acceptable option.

Influenza Vaccine:

Question: What is the difference between trivalent influenza and fluzone?

Answer: Trivalent flu vaccines protect against three different influenza viruses instead of four. Flu vaccines for the upcoming season will be trivalent. Fluzone is just one of the flu vaccine manufacturer options.

Question: If we ordered Fluzone, will get a trivalent influenza instead, correct?

Answer: Correct, all flu vaccines will be trivalent for the upcoming season.

Question: When should we order trivalent flu vaccine?

Answer: VFC flu vaccines were pre-booked earlier in January and February, so VFC Providers do not need to order flu vaccines. It will be distributed as the Iowa VFC Program receives the flu vaccine allocation from the CDC. If you need additional vaccines during the season, please contact the Iowa VFC Program.

Question: What is the administration start date for flu vaccines?

Answer: We recommend vaccinating when the CDC guidance has been released. In previous years, the recommendation started in September, but if you have someone in your office in August and you know they will not come back for a flu vaccine, you can go ahead and vaccinate them. You can also start vaccinating children needing two doses during the first season and pregnant people in their third trimester. The Iowa Immunization Program will send out guidance and updated material when it is available.

COVID-19 Vaccine:

Question: When will we book COVID vaccine?

Answer: We anticipate COVID-19 vaccines will be available for order in September. We will communicate when it is available.

Question: Do you anticipate COVID-19 vaccine to continue to need ultra cold storage?

Answer: We anticipate some COVID-19 vaccines will be able to be stored in ultra cold storage. However, there should be other products available to VFC Providers that can be stored in freezers and refrigerators. VFC Providers are not required to have an ultra cold storage unit.

Question: Do we need to keep COVID-19 vaccines on hand at this time with the new season coming out?

Answer: Yes, we recommend ordering the minimum quantity at this time to have it available to your VFC eligible patients.

RSV:

Question: We had no requests for RSV vaccine for infants/children last year. Are we required to have that in stock if we most likely won't use it?

Answer: In locations where providers report demand for nirsevimab is low, VFC providers can order the minimum number of doses feasible. VFC providers that do not serve infant populations do not need to stock the vaccine.

MPOX Vaccine:

Question: If we have remaining MPox vaccine after Aug 31, can we give that under VFC funding? Or will the patient need to pay?

Answer: All Mpox vaccine currently distributed to participating sites is from the national stockpile and needs to be administered free of charge.

School and Child Care Immunization Certificates:

Question: With the certificate of immunization change, is there a different report that you would recommend printing for parents that has all immunizations listed and the state insignia?

Answer: There are several reports available in IRIS using the Reports button in the patient record. The Immunization History Report and Immunizations Needed reports provide detailed immunization histories. Contact the IRIS Helpdesk with any questions: 1-800-374-3958.

Question: When will the 2024 education on school and day care audit processes be on the website? Or did I just miss it?

Answer: We are still working on the documents, so they have not been posted. We plan to do a webinar next month to go over the changes and answer any questions. You may contact Jessica Schultz (Jessica.Schultz@hhs.iowa.gov) directly for answers regarding those audits.