

# Iowa's Vaccines for Children Program

**NOVEMBER UPDATE  
WEBINAR**

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VFC & IQIP Manager / Epidemiologist

November 20, 2024



# Housekeeping

- ▶ All attendees are in “Listen Only” Mode.
- ▶ Want to ask a question?
  - Type your question into the “Q&A box” in the lower area of your screen.
  - Additional questions can be sent to [iowaVFC@hhs.iowa.gov](mailto:iowaVFC@hhs.iowa.gov).
- ▶ This webinar is being recorded. The recording and slides will be made available on <https://hhs.iowa.gov/immunization/vfc>.
- ▶ Questions regarding the VFA Program? Email [iowaVFA@hhs.iowa.gov](mailto:iowaVFA@hhs.iowa.gov).

# Presentation Outline

- ▶ Programmatic Updates & Reminders
  - Upcoming Delivery & Holiday Holds
  - MPOX Vaccine
  - VFC Resolutions
  - Respiratory Season Updates
    - COVID-19 return
    - Additional Flu vaccine
    - RSV vaccines & updated recommendations
  
- ▶ General Immunization Updates
  - IRIS 2.0 & Webinars
  
- ▶ Improving Vaccination Rates
  
- ▶ Tips & Tricks to Avoid Common VFC Program Noncompliance Issues
  
- ▶ Q&A - Ask Your Questions!

# Programmatic Updates & Reminders

# Upcoming Delivery Holds

- ▶ Deliveries made 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 one four-hour consecutive period on a day other than a Monday to receive shipments
  - **Hours do not update in IRIS unless included on a submitted order**
- ▶ Upcoming delivery holds this quarter:
  - November 27, 28, and 29, 2024
  - December 20 - 31, 2024
  - January 1 - 3, 2025

# Holiday Delivery Holds

- ▶ Routine shipments from McKesson may take up to 4 business days to process before they are shipped.
  - Frequently arrives within 4 days, but may take up to two weeks
- ▶ Orders placed after December 9th may not be shipped prior to start of new year.
- ▶ If you have any questions regarding vaccine orders, please contact the Iowa VFC Program by email at [iowaVFC@hhs.iowa.gov](mailto:iowaVFC@hhs.iowa.gov)

# MPOX Vaccine

- ▶ Bavarian Nordic, manufacturer of JYNNEOS, launched the vaccine on the commercial market as of April 1, 2024
- ▶ Available to VFC Providers for VFC eligible patients
- ▶ Most VFC Providers do not need to carry or administer JYNNEOS
  - Not considered a routine vaccine
- ▶ **Action item:** Vaccine available by request in IRIS. Contact [iowaVFC@hhs.iowa.gov](mailto:iowaVFC@hhs.iowa.gov) with questions

# ACIP Meeting October 23-24, 2024

## Recommendations:

### Immunization Schedules:

- ▶ Approve the *Recommended Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule, United States, 2025* and the *Recommended Adult Immunization Schedule, United States, 2025*
- ▶ Schedules to be updated on website:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/imz-schedules/index.html>



# ACIP Meeting October 23-24, 2024

## Recommendations:

### Meningococcal Vaccines:

- ▶ ACIP recommends MenB-4C (Bexsero®) be administered as a 2-dose series at 0 and 6 months when given to healthy adolescents and young adults aged 16–23 years based on shared clinical decision-making for the prevention of serogroup B meningococcal disease.
- ▶ ACIP recommends MenB-4C (Bexsero®) be administered as a 3-dose series at 0, 1–2, and 6 months when given to persons aged ≥10 years at increased risk for serogroup B meningococcal disease (i.e., persons with anatomic or functional asplenia, complement component deficiencies, or complement inhibitor use; microbiologists routinely exposed to *N. meningitidis* isolates; and persons at increased risk during an outbreak).

### Resources:

- <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines-for-children/downloads/meningococcal-508.pdf>

# ACIP Meeting October 23-24, 2024

## Recommendations:

- ▶ COVID-19 Vaccines: In addition to previously recommended 2024-2025 vaccination:
  - ACIP recommends a second dose\*\* of 2024-2025 COVID-19 vaccine for people ages 6 months-64 years who are moderately or severely immunocompromised
  - ACIP recommends additional doses (i.e., 3 or more doses) of 2024-2025 COVID-19 vaccine for people ages 6 months and older who are moderately or severely immunocompromised under *shared clinical decision making*

\*\*If previously unvaccinated or receiving initial vaccination series, at least 2 doses of 2024-2025 vaccine are recommended, and depending on vaccination history more may be needed. This additional 2024-2025 vaccine dose is recommended 6 months (minimum interval 2 months) after completion of initial vaccination series.

Resources: <https://www.cdc.gov/acip-recs/hcp/vaccine-specific/covid-19.html>

# 2024-2025 Respiratory Season Updates

# Return COVID-19 Vaccines

- ▶ VFC Providers are expected to return **all spoiled and expired VFC vaccines**, including 2024-2025 COVID-19 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
  - Shipping label is only valid for 30 days
- ▶ **Nonviable Vaccine Return Instructions**: IRIS contains functionality to manage nonviable vaccine returns, including notifications prompting providers to return nonviable VFC vaccines to McKesson
- ▶ Avoid excessive expired and wasted vaccines by ordering minimum quantity

# Additional Flu Vaccine Available

- ▶ Iowa VFC Program has extra influenza vaccines available to ship to providers for VFC eligible children
  - FluLaval quad, preservative free, 0.5mL single dose syringe, 10-pack

Action item: Contact [iowaVFC@hhs.iowa.gov](mailto:iowaVFC@hhs.iowa.gov) if you need additional doses

## Five RSV prevention products licensed by U.S. FDA

- **RSV vaccines for adults aged  $\geq 60$  years**
  - Arexvy, GSK<sup>1</sup> **Not Available through VFC Program**
  - Abrysvo, Pfizer<sup>2</sup> **Not Available through VFC Program**
  - mResvia, Moderna **Not Available through VFC Program**
- **RSV vaccine for pregnant persons (to protect the infant)**
  - Abrysvo, Pfizer **Available through VFC Program**
- **Monoclonal antibody products for infants and young children**
  - Synagis (palivizumab), Sobi **Not Available through VFC Program**
  - Beyfortus (nirsevimab), Sanofi and Astra Zeneca **Available through VFC Program**

1. GSK RSV vaccine (Arexvy) is also licensed by the Food and Drug Administration for use in non-pregnant adults 50-59 who are at increased risk for lower respiratory tract disease caused by RSV ([Package Insert - AREXVY \(fda.gov\)](#)). However, there is currently no U.S. ACIP/CDC recommendation for the use of RSV vaccines in non-pregnant adults in this age group.
2. Pfizer RSV vaccine (Abrysvo) is also licensed by the Food and Drug Administration for use in non-pregnant adults 18-59 who are at increased risk for lower respiratory tract disease caused by RSV ([Package Insert - ABRYSVO \(STN 125769\)](#)). However, there is currently no U.S. ACIP/CDC recommendation for the use of RSV vaccines in non-pregnant adults in this age group.

# Key take-aways on RSV immunization for the 2024-2025 season

All infants should be protected by either maternal RSV vaccine or nirsevimab. Both are not needed for most infants.



## Pregnant Women

- Pregnant women 32-36 weeks of gestations should get RSV vaccine using seasonal administration (meaning September – January in more of the U.S.)
- Only Pfizer RSV vaccine (Abrysvo) is licensed and recommended for use in pregnant women.



## Infants and Children

- All infants <8 months\* and children through 19 months with risk factors should get nirsevimab.
- For infants born during October through March, nirsevimab should be administered in the first week of life – ideally during the birth hospitalization. \*\*



## Adults 60+

- All adults ≥75 years and adults 60-74 years with risk factors should get a dose of RSV vaccine (GSK Arexvy, Pfizer Abrysvo, or Moderna mResvia).
- Adults who have already received RSV vaccination should not receive another dose this season.\*

\*If birthing mother is not vaccinated with maternal RSV vaccine

\*\*Because timing of the onset, peak, and decline of RSV activity may vary, providers can adjust administration schedules based on local epidemiology.

\*A single dose provides protection for at least two RSV seasons. The need for additional RSV vaccine doses will be evaluated by ACIP in the future.

# Nirsevimab and maternal vaccination have different administration windows to provide optimal protection to the infant



<sup>2</sup> In jurisdictions with RSV seasonality that differs from most of the continental United States, including Alaska, southern Florida, Guam, Hawai'i, Puerto Rico, U.S.-affiliated Pacific Islands, and U.S. Virgin Islands, providers should follow state, local, or territorial guidance. However, nirsevimab may be administered outside of routine seasonal administration (ie., October through March) based on local RSV activity and other special circumstances. For infants born during October through March, nirsevimab should be administered in the first week of life—ideally during the birth hospitalization.

## Optimal timing for nirsevimab administration is shortly before season

Administration should be targeted shortly before the start of their first RSV season and continued during the season for those who have not received a dose

**For infants born shortly before or during the RSV season, immunize within 1 week of birth, ideally during the birth hospitalization**



# General Immunization Updates

# Transition to IRIS 2.0

- ▶ **Timeline:** Q2-Q3 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
- ▶ Users may contact the IRIS Program at [irisenrollment@hhs.iowa.gov](mailto:irisenrollment@hhs.iowa.gov) with any questions about the IRIS transition

# Final 2024 IRIS Webinar

## Tuesday 12/10 at 12 p.m.

► Topics will include:

- document 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

[Tuesday, December 10, 12:00-1:00 p.m.](#)

Webinar ID: 160 734 8084

[https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN\\_q9aOFVQ\\_RBewRKIsB7J\\_gw](https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_q9aOFVQ_RBewRKIsB7J_gw)

► Registration is required for each session, or users can join at

<https://www.zoomgov.com/join>

► [2024 IRIS Webinar Schedule](#)

► [2025 IRIS Webinar Schedule](#)

► Contact the IRIS Help Desk at 800-374-3958 with any questions

# Improving Vaccination Rates

# You Call The Shots

## Now Available

[Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis \(DTaP\)](#) **Mar 2024**

[Haemophilus influenzae type b \(Hib\)](#) Jul 2023

[Hepatitis A](#) May 2023

[Hepatitis B](#) **Feb 2024**

[Human Papillomavirus](#) **Jan 2024**

[Influenza](#) Sept 2023

[Meningococcal](#) **Jun 2024**

[MMR](#) Jan 2023

[Pneumococcal](#) **Jun 2024**

[Polio](#) Sept 2023

[Rotavirus](#) **Mar 2024**

[Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis \(Tdap\)](#) **Apr 2024**

[Understanding the Basics: General Best Practice Guidelines on Immunization](#) Feb 2023

[Vaccine Administration](#) Mar 2023

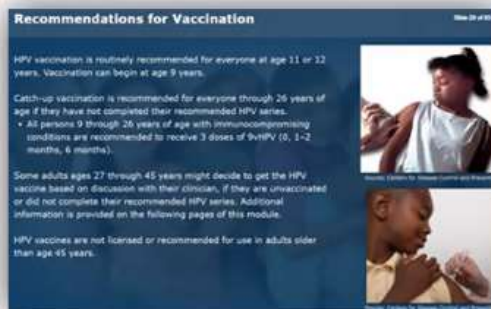
[Vaccines For Children \(VFC\)](#) **Jan 2024**

[Vaccine Storage and Handling](#) **Jan 2024**

[Varicella](#) **Oct 2024**

[Zoster](#) **Aug 2024**

\*VFC Program requirement



<https://www.cdc.gov/immunization-training/hcp/you-call-the-shots/index.html>

# Vaccinate Your Family Trainings

- **Advocate Training Bundle**
  - A 5-part, self-paced training for advocates looking to learn more about a variety of vaccine-related topics.



<https://vaccinate.thinkific.com/>

A grid of five course cards from Vaccinate Your Family University. Each card includes a title, a brief description, and a "Free" label. The courses are: "History of Vaccination", "Vaccines 101", "How to Debunk Online Misinformation", "How to Talk with People About Vaccines", and "Barriers to Vaccination".

Course Title	Description	Price
History of Vaccination	In this course, advocates will learn about the history of vaccination, past successes, and current issues related to vaccination.	Free
Vaccines 101	In this course, advocates will learn about: how vaccines work, vaccine safety and side effects, and vaccination...	Free
How to Debunk Online Misinformation	In this course, advocates will learn how to address online misinformation.	Free
How to Talk with People about Vaccines	In this course, advocates will learn ways to communicate about vaccines and bolster confidence.	Free
Barriers to Vaccination	In this course, advocates will explore the barriers to vaccination in the United States and discuss how social...	Free

<https://vaccinate.thinkific.com/>

# Vaccinate Your Family “Dispelling Respiratory Rumors” Campaign

- Vaccinate Your Family (VYF) launched [Dispelling Respiratory Rumors campaign](#) to help dispel common myths about influenza, COVID-19, RSV, and general wellness during the winter months.
- Includes resources, shareable materials, helpful messages, and social media graphics to help dispel rumors and address the most common misconceptions.



<https://vaccinateyourfamily.org/viral-mythbusting/>

# Medscape

- Medscape Education released an education curriculum for healthcare professionals who care for patients at risk for measles:

[Measles—United States, January 1, 2020–March 28, 2024](#)

- Objective is to help learners be better able to evaluate the epidemiology and clinical characteristics of measles infections in the United States between 2020 and 2024.
- CME, MOC or CE credit available



<https://www.medscape.org/viewarticle/1001379>



# Increasing Immunization Confidence Immersive Learning Program

- ▶ Launched by Bodyswaps and American Academy of Pediatrics
- ▶ For members of the entire health care team
- ▶ Users work through various scenarios with the objective of increasing confidence, giving a strong recommendation, responding with empathy, and how to tailor communication
- ▶ <https://bodyswaps.co/soft-skills-training-in-vr/healthcare/increasing-immunization-confidence>



## Scenario

In this immersive learning simulation, the learner joins a virtual team at Mill View Pediatrics and works through various scenarios with vaccine-hesitant parents to build the different skills necessary to have confident conversations.

# Tips & Tricks to Avoid Common VFC Program Noncompliance Issues

How to ace your next site visit!

# VFC Non-Compliance and Other Programmatic Issues

- ▶ Potential issues to tackle prior to a site visit:
  - Adequately screening patients
    - A major root cause of **borrowing**
  - Wastage
  - Return Reusable Shipping Coolers
  - Changes to Key Staff

# Borrowing Reasons

Occurs when VFC vaccine is administered to a private-pay patient, or private vaccine is administered to a VFC-eligible patient.

## VACCINE BORROWING SHOULD NOT ROUTINELY OCCUR

### When it is **OK** to borrow:

- Borrowing short-dated vaccine to prevent vaccine expiration
- Vaccine delivery delays
- Vaccine damaged in transit

### When it is **NOT** OK to borrow:

- If borrowing from VFC stock would result in vaccine not being available for VFC patients
- Routine borrowing for any reason
- Repeated human error
- Running out of stock between orders

# Avoid Borrowing Through Proper Screening

- Eligibility screening and documentation must take place at each immunization visit.
- Providers must properly and accurately document eligibility status, including eligibility category, at each immunization encounter prior to vaccine administration.

# VFC Eligibility

	Child's insurance Status	VFC Eligibility Category	VFC	Private
Medicaid	Enrolled in Medicaid	Medicaid	✓	
	Primary insurance plan with Medicaid as secondary insurance	Medicaid <sup>1</sup>	✓	
	Enrolled in Medicaid and is American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN)	Medicaid <sup>1</sup> or AI/AN	✓	
AI/AN	AI/AN	AI/AN	✓	
	AI/AN with no health insurance coverage	AI/AN or Uninsured <sup>2</sup>	✓	
Un-insured	No health insurance coverage	Uninsured <sup>2</sup>	✓	
	Enrolled in a Healthcare Sharing Ministry	Uninsured <sup>2</sup>	✓	
Birthing Hospital	All insurance statuses	Birth Dose Hepatitis B is available for the whole birth cohort at enrolled facilities regardless of eligibility	✓	
Underinsured	Health insurance, but plan does not cover any vaccines	Underinsured <sup>2,3,4</sup>	✓	
	Health insurance plan does not cover all ACIP-recommended vaccines	Underinsured <sup>2,3,4</sup>	✓	
	Health insurance plan covers all vaccines, but has a fixed dollar limit or cap on amount of coverage	Underinsured after fixed dollar limit is met <sup>2,3,4</sup>	✓	
		Insured until fixed dollar limit is met		✓

Iowa Vaccines for Children (VFC) Quick View of Eligibility and Insurance Coverage Situations

- Administer VFC vaccines and bill administration fee to Medicaid to provide the least out-of-pocket expense for the family.
- Provider may charge an administration fee per vaccine at the time of service.
- Before administering a vaccine, providers must verify if the child's health insurance plan covers ACIP-recommended vaccines. If the provider cannot verify vaccination coverage, the child is considered insured and not eligible to receive VFC vaccines at the immunization encounter.
- Eligible to receive vaccines only if they are served by a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), Rural Health Clinic (RHC) or Local Public Health Agency (LPHA)

# Not VFC Eligible

Iowa Vaccines for Children (VFC)  
Quick View of Eligibility and  
Insurance Coverage Situations

	Child's insurance Status	VFC Eligibility Category	VFC	Private
Insured – Not VFC Eligible	Enrolled in the Healthy and Well Kids in Iowa (Hawki) Program	Insured – Not VFC Eligible		✓
	Health insurance covers all vaccines but has not yet met plan's deductible or paid for other services at visit	Insured – Not VFC Eligible		✓
	Health insurance covers all vaccines. Child is referred to LPHA by private clinic when the plan's deductible has not been met or the private clinic does not stock private vaccines	Insured – Not VFC Eligible. Children are not automatically considered VFC eligible when seeking vaccines at LPHA. <sup>3</sup>		✓

# Screening All Patients

- ▶ Updated screening documents
  - Patient Eligibility Screening Record - Private Sector
  - Patient Eligibility Screening Record - Public Sector
  - Patient Eligibility Screening Record (Spanish) - Private Sector
  - Patient Eligibility Screening Record (Spanish) - Public Sector



# Causes of Vaccine Wastage

Vaccine Ordering Issues

IRIS Inventory Issues

Storage & Handling Issues

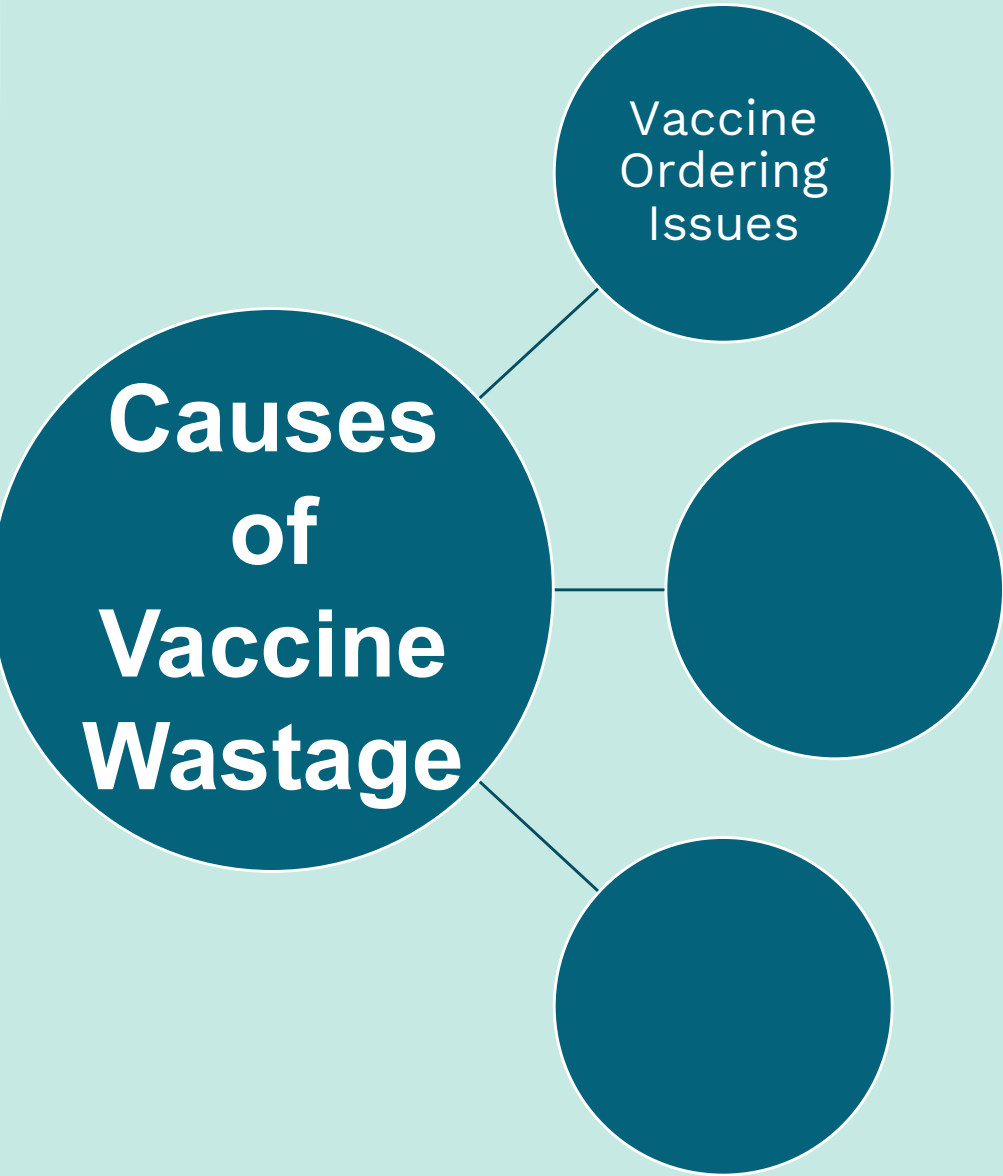
Vaccine wastage is nonviable vaccine (spoiled, wasted, or expired)

VFC vaccines purchased through CDC contract range from \$11.07 to \$395.00 per dose, averaging \$99.30

**Goal of Iowa VFC Program to report less than 5% wastage**

**Every VFC Provider can reduce vaccine wastage!**

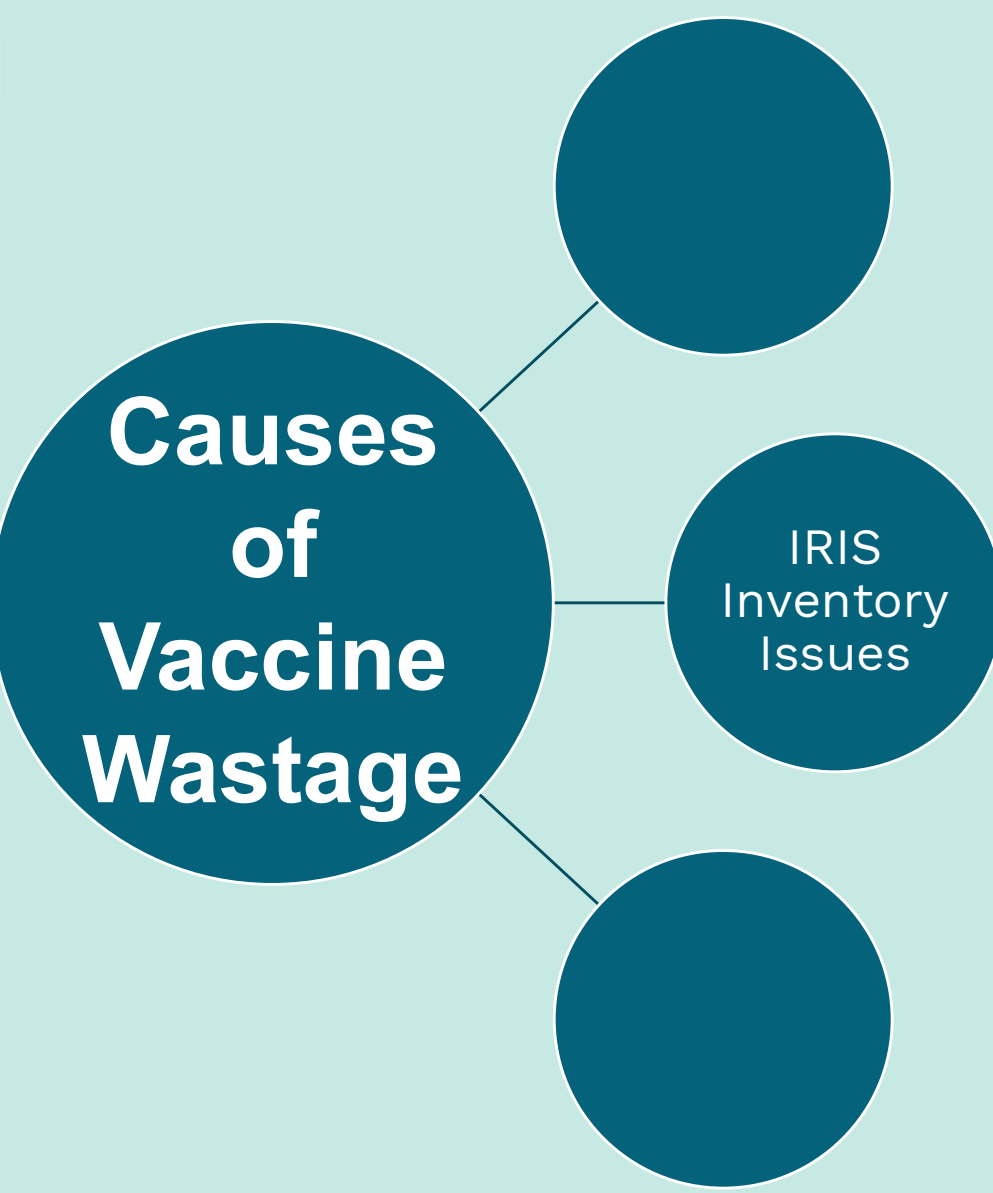
# Causes of Vaccine Wastage



Vaccine  
Ordering  
Issues

- Follow order frequency cadence
- Do not overorder – avoid stockpiling!
- Review current inventory/expiration dates and consider seasonal events or specialty clinics
- Review recommended order quantities in IRIS
- Ensure proper delivery hours on each order
- If applicable, review VFC Program messages on previous IRIS orders

# Causes of Vaccine Wastage



IRIS  
Inventory  
Issues

- Select the most appropriate wastage reason codes
  - Inappropriate codes lead to inappropriate wastage reported in IRIS and to the CDC
- Do not manually add VFC inventory to IRIS
  - If you do double add inventory, call the VFC Program
- Return expired/spoiled VFC vaccines
- Conduct counts of vaccine inventory at least monthly
- Call IRIS helpdesk when IRIS inventory issues arise

# Causes of Vaccine Wastage

Storage  
&  
Handling  
Issues

- Respond quickly to all temperature excursions
  - Never assume vaccine is nonviable in the event of a storage problem.
- Update S&H Plan
- Follow S&H best practices
  - Avoid drawing up and wasting vaccine
  - Rotate stock regularly, earliest expiration first
  - Store VFC stock separately from private stock
  - Check vaccine expiration dates at least monthly.
- Report VFC vaccine that will not be used and will expire within 2-3 (or even 4-6) months to the Iowa VFC Program

# Return Reusable Coolers

- ▶ EcoFlex96 reusable coolers are sent with all frozen and some refrigerated vaccine
  - Includes a pre-paid shipping label in each shipments
  - Flyers are included in each shipment include step-by-step directions, including how to request a UPS pick up if not part of a regular route
- ▶ Smaller orders may be shipped in standard Styrofoam (not EcoFlex) and do not need to be returned

## Action item:

- ▶ Return all EcoFlex shippers
- ▶ Do not included non-viable vaccines in these returns



# 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

# 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

# Ordering Replacement DDLs

- ▶ Immunization Program has Log Tag 400s available to VFC Providers at no cost
- ▶ Send email request to [iowaVFC@hhs.iowa.gov](mailto:iowaVFC@hhs.iowa.gov) containing:
  - VFC PIN
  - Number of refrigerator DDLs requested
  - Number of freezer DDLs requested
  - If a docking station is needed



# New Iowa HHS Emails & Staff Directory

## Immunization Program Directory

Don Callaghan	Bureau Chief	515-473-8344	Don.Callaghan@hhs.iowa.gov
Bethany Kintigh	Immunization Program Manager	515-201-4614	Bethany.Kintigh@hhs.iowa.gov
Shelly Jensen	Immunization Nurse Consultant	515-423-3341	Shelly.Jensen@hhs.iowa.gov
Emma Gelman	CDC Public Health Advisor	515-229-5080	Emma.Gelman@hhs.iowa.gov
Hannah Schram	Epidemiologist	515-419-1142	Hannah.Schram@hhs.iowa.gov
Karen Quinn	Contract and Budget Specialist	515-537-8401	Karen.Quinn@hhs.iowa.gov
<b>IRIS Help Desk: 1-800-374-3958</b>			
Kim Tichy	IRIS Coordinator	515-322-7780	Kim.Tichy@hhs.iowa.gov
Tory King	IRIS Help Desk Staff	515-322-7538	Tory.King@hhs.iowa.gov
Cindy Oliver	IRIS Help Desk Staff	515-322-2374	Cindy.Oliver@hhs.iowa.gov
Joseph Zehner	IRIS Trainer/Data Exchange Specialist	515-322-7797	Joseph.Zehner@hhs.iowa.gov
<b>Vaccines for Children Program: <a href="mailto:iowaVFC@hhs.iowa.gov">iowaVFC@hhs.iowa.gov</a></b>			
Jessica Schultz	VFC/IQIP Manager/Epidemiologist	515-322-2287	Jessica.Schultz@hhs.iowa.gov
Matt Sharp	VFC Program Coordinator	515-201-3935	Matt.Sharp@hhs.iowa.gov
Jenni Newton	VFC Program Vaccine Distribution Coordinator	515-601-1777	Jenni.Newton@hhs.iowa.gov
<b>Immunization Assessments</b>			
Kelly Rooney-Kozak	Assessments/Adolescent Program Coordinator	515-201-6730	Kelly.Rooney-Kozak@hhs.iowa.gov
Brandy Rushing	Assessments/Nurse Consultant	515-322-9704	Brandy.Rushing@hhs.iowa.gov
John Fiedler	Assessments/Nurse Consultant	515-954-9859	John.Fiedler@hhs.iowa.gov
Lindsey Dawson	Assessments/Nurse Consultant	515-805-7964	Lindsey.Dawson@hhs.iowa.gov
Kelli Smith	IQIP Assessments/Nurse Consultant	515-318-9530	Kelli.Smith@hhs.iowa.gov
Phone: 1-800-831-6293	<a href="https://hhs.iowa.gov/public-health/immunization">https://hhs.iowa.gov/public-health/immunization</a>		Fax: 1-800-831-6292

# 2025 VFC Webinar Series

- ▶ Webinar from 12-1 p.m. on
  - January 29, 2025
  - May 21, 2025
  - July 23, 2025
  - November 19, 2025
- ▶ Attendance is not required, but highly recommended, even for experienced VFC Program Providers
- ▶ Webinars are recorded and can be found on Iowa VFC website:  
<https://hhs.iowa.gov/immunization/vfc>
- ▶ Register at  
[https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN\\_ez5EPKu0Q7ewm5ItfCT-zA#/registration](https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_ez5EPKu0Q7ewm5ItfCT-zA#/registration)

# 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](mailto:iowaVFC@hhs.iowa.gov)

Phone: 1-800-831-6293

Fax: 1-800-831-6292



Health and  
Human Services

## VFC Program Q&A:

### **Respiratory Season Vaccines:**

**Question:** Are we able to order more VFC influenza vaccines?

**Answer:** Yes, we have additional doses of FluLaval available. Please email additional influenza vaccine requests with the number of doses requested (in quantities of 10) to [IowaVFC@hhs.iowa.gov](mailto:IowaVFC@hhs.iowa.gov).

**Question:** When do we pre book for flu vaccine next season?

**Answer:** The VFC Program expects to open the annual influenza vaccine pre-book in mid-January. The VFC Program will communicate the prebook window when it is available.

**Question:** What is the age range eligible to receive VFC COVID-19 vaccine?

**Answer:** VFC eligible children ages 6 months through 18 years can receive VFC COVID-19 vaccine.

**Question:** If a woman received a dose of Abrysvo (RSV vaccine) during pregnancy, do we need to give nirsevimab to the baby?

**Answer:** Most infants younger than 8 months do not need nirsevimab if the mother was vaccinated with Abrysvo. There are a few exceptions:

<https://www.cdc.gov/rsv/hcp/vaccine-clinical-guidance/infants-young-children.html>

**Question:** If a mother does not remember if she received a dose of Abrysvo (RSV vaccine) during pregnancy, do we need to give nirsevimab to the baby?

**Answer:** Nirsevimab is recommended for infants younger than 8 months of age who are born during or are entering their first RSV season (typically fall through spring) if:

- The mother did not receive RSV vaccine during pregnancy, or
- The mother's RSV vaccination status is unknown, or
- The infant was born within 14 days of maternal RSV vaccination

Here are few resources that may be helpful: <https://www.cdc.gov/rsv/hcp/vaccine-clinical-guidance/infants-young-children.html> and <https://www.cdc.gov/rsv/hcp/vaccine-clinical-guidance/pregnant-people.html>.

### **Vaccines for Adults Program:**

**Question:** If a provider ends up with overstock of Bridge Access Program/ Vaccines for Adult flu vaccine and run low on VFC supply, can they borrow from that stock?

**Answer:** Here is the link for the VFA Program website which has a great Q&A <https://hhs.iowa.gov/immunization/vaccines-adults-program>. Sites may use VFA vaccines for VFC and vice versa but the sites must perform adequate screening and documentation.

### **Screening & Eligibility:**

**Question:** Vaccine are covered by private primary Insurance under the Affordable Care Act, so for a patient with private Primary Insurance has Medicaid as secondary, should we use private or VFC vaccines?

**Answer:** Patients with private Primary Insurance and Medicaid as secondary are VFC eligible: [hhs.iowa.gov/immunization/vfc](https://hhs.iowa.gov/immunization/vfc).

**Question:** How do you submit a claim to the private primary insurance to get a denial so that Medicaid will cover as the secondary insurance? Typically, if Medicaid is secondary they will automatically deny any primary submission claim that does not include a primary insurance denial.

**Answer:** Using VFC vaccines is the Preferred Method for this scenario. It is up to the site's discretion if they choose to use Private vaccines and bill Privately or if the site chooses VFC vaccines and bills Medicaid. However, the reason why it is stated that VFC is the preferred method as it is the least out of pocket cost to the patient.

Questions regarding billing can be directed to the Iowa Medicaid Provider Services: Phone: 1-800-338-7909 Email: [imeproviderservices@dhs.state.ia.us](mailto:imeproviderservices@dhs.state.ia.us)

### **Immunization Materials:**

**Question:** Where can we order immunization materials from Iowa HHS?

**Answer:**

<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=TXssjVoIF0aFNjinbRmw2vcriePgTwtLvNG40xpGi9RUODFJRkpINU9ETEg5UUpSMFZaQTBjTzRCWC4u>

**Question:** Do you have to have the data logger400?

**Answer:** No, VFC Providers can use any other DDL that meets program requirements:

[Vaccine Storage and Handling Plan Template](#).

If you would like additional LogTag400s, please send an email to [iowaVFC@hhs.iowa.gov](mailto:iowaVFC@hhs.iowa.gov) containing the PIN, the number of refrigerator DDLs and freezer DDLs needed, and if the site needs a dock.

### **Specific Vaccines:**

**Question:** When Bexsero was the timeframe of receiving the 2nd dose 1 month later- those kids now show their second dose as not valid in IRIS. Will this be corrected so it isn't showing they are needing another dose?

**Answer:** Previously vaccinated individuals using the 1-month interval schedule do not need to be recalled or revaccinated. The Immunization Program is still working through some scheduling issues with IRIS.

**Question:** We have Jynneos that we have been giving to our sexual health patients if they meet criteria. We did not order them through the VFC program. I want to make sure we are handling this correctly.

**Answer:** The Immunization Program supplied limited allocations of Jynneos to certain local public health partners, outside the scope of the Vaccines for Children Program.

There are no changes to the criteria for these doses. However, additional doses of VFC Jynneos can be requested to vaccinate VFC eligible patients who are 18 years of age.

**Question:** To be clear, if Jynneos is ordered through VFC, it's only valid for those age 18.

**Answer:** Correct, VFC Jynneos can be administered to VFC eligible individuals 18 years of age. It cannot be administered to younger children.

**Question:** I have one dose of the Pevnar13 left which is no longer given. How can I dispose of this as not expired yet and no chose in system for no longer used?

**Answer:** Pevnar 13 can be removed from your IRIS inventory using the 'expired' code. This will trigger a vaccine return and you will follow the same return process used for all other VFC vaccines.