

Iowa's Vaccines for Children Program

MAY UPDATE WEBINAR

Jessica Schultz, MPH
VFC & IQIP Manager / Epidemiologist

May 21, 2025



Housekeeping

- ▶ All attendees are in “Listen Only” Mode
- ▶ Want to ask a question?
 - Type your question into the “Q&A” in the top area of your screen
 - Additional questions can be sent to 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

Presentation Outline

- ▶ Programmatic Updates & Reminders
 - ACIP April Meeting Updates
 - Upcoming Delivery & Holiday Holds
 - Shipping Coolers & TagAlerts
 - 24-25 Respiratory Season Updates
 - Upcoming 25-26 Respiratory Season Updates
- ▶ Improving Vaccination Rates
 - Measles Prevention
- ▶ Tips & Tricks to Avoid Common VFC Program Noncompliance Issues
- ▶ Q&A - Ask Your Questions!

Programmatic Updates & Reminders

Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) - April 15-16 Meeting

- ▶ ACIP voted unanimously (15 YES – 0 NO) and passed the following pediatric recommendation:
- ▶ ACIP recommends GSK's MenABCWY vaccine (PENMENVY) may be used when both MenACWY and MenB are indicated at the same visit
 1. Healthy person aged 16-23 (routine schedule) when shared clinical decision-making favors administration of MenB vaccine and
 2. Persons aged ≥ 10 years who are at increased risk for meningococcal disease (e.g. because of persistent complement deficiencies, complement inhibitor use, or functional or anatomic asplenia)

ACIP - April 15- 16 Meeting

- ▶ **VFC Vote:** Approve the updated Vaccines for Children (VFC) resolution for vaccines to prevent meningococcal disease
- ▶ Penmenvy is not yet available to VFC Program providers
 - Iowa VFC Program will notify providers when it is available
- ▶ Penbraya is the only MenABCWY product currently available through the VFC program
 - Existing inventory of Penbraya should continue to be administered according to ACIP recommendations

Upcoming Delivery Holds

- ▶ Deliveries made by UPS & FedEx
- ▶ 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:
 - May 23 and 26
 - June 19
 - July 3, 4 and 7
 - August 29 and September 1
- ▶ McKesson may place temporary holds due to severe weather conditions in Iowa or at the warehouse site

TagAlert Temperature Monitors in Refrigerated Coolers

- ▶ New temperature monitors (TagAlert) in shipments from McKesson
- ▶ **TagAlert temperature monitors should be discarded and** do not need to be returned to McKesson
- ▶ Each shipment includes a flyer with unpacking steps, TagAlert instructions, and cooler return instructions to assist staff responsible for receiving vaccine shipments



Action item: Upon opening the box, providers should **IMMEDIATELY press the blue Stop and Start Button** until the Stop Icon appears and then read the indicator status to determine if the appropriate temperature was maintained during transit

McKesson Vaccine Coolers

- ▶ Two types of qualified coolers are used:
 - **EcoFlex96** reusable coolers are sent with all frozen and most medium, large, and extra-large refrigerated vaccine
 - **KoolTemp** coolers for most small refrigerated shipments

Action item:

- ▶ Refer to flyer provided in each cooler about whether and how to return the cooler for recycling/re-use
- ▶ Return all EcoFlex shippers and discard KoolTemp Cooler
- ▶ Do not include non-viable vaccines in these returns



EcoFlex Cooler
Must be returned
(label on inner flap of the box)

KoolTemp Cooler
Discard



2024-2025 Respiratory Season Updates

RSV products – hold for next season

- ▶ Providers with Nirsevimab or Abrysvo (maternal RSV vaccine) inventory on hand should store doses for next season
- ▶ Do not waste or spoil these products
- ▶ Action Item: Labeled immunizations as “Keep for Fall” and stored appropriately for next season

Reduction of RSV-Associated Hospitalizations in 24-25 Season

- ▶ RSV hospitalization rates during the 2024-25 season were 45-52% lower in infants younger than 3 months old and 28-43% lower in infants younger than 8 months old compared to the 2018-2020 seasons
- ▶ [Interim Evaluation of Respiratory Syncytial Virus Hospitalization Rates Among Infants and Young Children After Introduction of Respiratory Syncytial Virus Prevention Products](#) (MMWR article)

Return Flu Vaccines

- ▶ Seasonal influenza VFC vaccines are set to expire on June 30, 2025.
 - Viable but unused vaccines cannot be returned until expiry date
- ▶ 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
 - Return single dose syringes, unopened single dose vials, and unopened multi-dose vials to McKesson
 - Products in open boxes can 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
 - All McKesson return label communications will come from UPS Quantum View pkginfo@ups.com

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

- Return single dose syringes, unopened single dose vials, and 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](#)

Upcoming 2025-2026 Respiratory Season Updates

Trivalent Influenza Vaccine Composition for the 2025–26 season

- ▶ On March 13, 2025, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recommended trivalent 2025-2026 influenza vaccines contain:
 - A/Victoria/4897/2022 (egg-based) & A/Wisconsin/67/2022 (cell/recombinant-based) (H1N1) pdm09-like virus
 - A/Croatia/10136RV/2023 (egg-based) & A/District of Columbia/27/2023 (cell/recombinant-based) (H3N2)-like virus
 - B/Austria/1359417/2021 (B/Victoria lineage)-like virus.
- ▶ For more information, refer to [Influenza Vaccine Composition for the 2025-2026 U.S. Influenza Season | FDA](#) and [WHO Recommendations announced for influenza vaccine composition for the 2025–2026 northern hemisphere influenza season.](#)

FluMist- Self/Caregiver Administrations Program

- ▶ AstraZeneca will launch FluMist with a self/caregiver administration option for the 25-26 flu season
 - ▶ FluMist self/caregiver option will only be available through an online pharmacy
 - ▶ FluMist will continue to be available for administration by a healthcare provider
- ▶ **FluMist prebooked through Iowa HHS cannot be self/caregiver administered and must be administered for in-office use**
 - ▶ CDC flu contracts with AstraZeneca for the 2025-26 season will not provide the option for self/caregiver administered vaccine

COVID-19 Vaccine Strains

- ▶ On May 22, 2025, the FDA's Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee will meet in open session to discuss and make recommendations on the selection of the 2025-2026 Formula for COVID-19 vaccines for use in the United States
- ▶ <https://www.fda.gov/advisory-committees/advisory-committee-calendar/vaccines-and-related-biological-products-advisory-committee-may-22-2025-meeting-announcement>

RSV Products & COVID-19 Vaccine VFC Policy Changes

- ▶ Since the fall of 2023, VFC providers have been granted a flexible, time-limited period to meet the private inventory requirements for COVID-19 vaccines and RSV monoclonal antibody products
- ▶ During this period, VFC providers have not been required to maintain the minimum private inventory for these products
- ▶ For 2025-26 season, the Iowa VFC Operations Guide will be updated with the following two policy changes

2025-26 RSV Monoclonal Antibody Products VFC Policy

- ▶ VFC Providers that serve and plan to vaccinate any privately insured, non-VFC eligible population, must maintain a separate vaccine inventory to vaccinate their non-VFC-eligible population
- ▶ **Starting July 1, 2025, this policy will include nirsevimab and any other RSV monoclonal antibody product that may be added to the VFC program**
 - **VFC Provider locations that stock private nirsevimab should plan to stock VFC nirsevimab**
- ▶ Routine borrowing of VFC vaccines and monoclonal antibody products for use among privately insured, non-VFC-eligible patients is not permitted

2025-26 COVID-19 Vaccines VFC Policy

- ▶ Given the unique considerations of COVID-19 vaccination, it may not be practical for all VFC providers to stock this vaccine for VFC-eligible patients
- ▶ As such, the Iowa VFC Program will identify accessible locations where VFC-eligible children can be referred for COVID-19 vaccination
 - Locations and additional information will be communicated to VFC Providers
 - VFC Program providers are still encouraged to carry COVID-19 vaccines to vaccinate their patient populations

Anticipated* Upcoming Respiratory Season Summary

► Influenza Vaccine:

- Will ship as soon as received in CDC warehouse
- Allocation model from CDC - may not receive all prebooked doses at once

► COVID-19 Vaccine:

- Ordering to start in fall (TBD)
- More information from FDA May 22nd meeting
- Anticipate allocation model from CDC

► Maternal RSV Vaccine:

- Ordering to start in August, can use unexpired vaccine from previous seasons
- Administration to start September 1
- Anticipate allocation model from CDC

► Nirsevimab (RSV) infant product:

- Ordering to start in September, can use unexpired vaccine from previous seasons
- Administration to start October 1
- Anticipate allocation model from CDC

Improving Vaccination Rates

Keeps It That Way Campaign

Keeps It That Way was created to raise awareness about the risk of [vaccine-preventable diseases](#) and the benefits of vaccination can provide to children's health. This effort invites parents and caregivers to discover the benefits of on-time vaccination for their children. *Keeps It That Way* aims to:

- Share information with parents and caregivers about diseases and combat misperceptions
- Highlight the importance of childhood vaccinations to protect children's health
- Encourage healthcare provider conversations



Measles Resources

- ▶ **Action item:** Healthcare providers should ensure children are current on routine immunizations, including MMR

- ▶ Measles Immunization Toolkit:
 - [Post Copy with images](#)
 - [Social media image post 1](#)
 - [Social media image post 2](#)
 - [Social media image post 3](#)

- ▶ 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

CDC Toolkit: Be Ready for Measles

- ▶ CDC has released a new measles resource for health departments: [Be Ready for Measles](#) Toolkit
- ▶ Provides preparedness and outbreak response tools and communication materials that make it easy to communicate with the public, clinicians, and partners before and during a [measles outbreak](#).
- ▶ Communication materials are available in additional languages and as editable or printer-friendly versions upon request.
 - To request these, email: measlesresources@cdc.gov.

Tips & Tricks to Avoid Common VFC Program Noncompliance Issues

Summer 2025 Activities

Top Noncompliance Issues

1. VFC Staff Training & Clinic Contacts
2. Back-up DDL has a current and valid Certificate of calibration testing
3. Temperature Monitoring Data Recording & Review
4. Vaccine Management Plan review

1) Key Staff Training

Requirement: Primary & Back-up vaccine coordinators required to complete two You Call the Shots Modules

- [Vaccines For Children \(VFC\)](#)
- [Vaccine Storage and Handling](#)

Action Steps:

- ▶ Ensure Primary & Back-up vaccine coordinators complete trainings
- ▶ Other clinic staff can complete the trainings, but not required

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 2025**

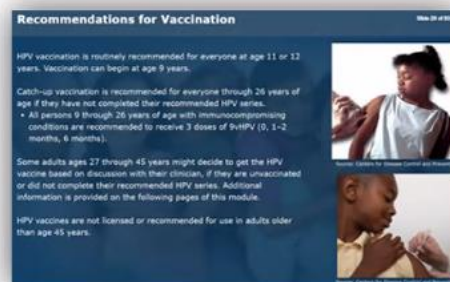
[Vaccine Storage and Handling](#) **Jan 2025**

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

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

*VFC Program requirement

YOU CALL THE SHOTS



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

1) Key Staff have IRIS Admin 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

1) Updated Key Staff Contacts

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

Action Steps:

- ▶ Review contacts in IRIS Edit Organization page

1) Clinic Status Changes Must Be Reported

Clinic Status Reporting Requirement:

- ▶ VFC providers must communicate clinic status changes to the Iowa VFC Program, including, but not limited to:
 - Permanent closures
 - Temporary closures
 - Moving locations
 - Anything that would affect delivery, storage or monitoring VFC vaccine

Action Steps:

- ▶ Send email to iowaVFC@hhs.iowa.gov before clinic changes occur

2) Access to a Back-up DDL

► Requirement:

- Iowa VFC providers shall have at least one back-up DDL, meeting VFC requirements with a valid and current certificate of calibration readily available
 - Back-up device is recommended to have a different calibration expiration date from the primary DDL
 - If the back-up device is not physically on-site, a plan must be in place documenting how the back-up device will be accessed within an acceptable timeframe

► Action item: Ensure VFC Provider location has access to a back-up DDL

2) Ordering Replacement DDLs

- ▶ Immunization Program has Log Tag 400s available to VFC Providers at no cost

- ▶ Send email request to iowaVFC@hhs.iowa.gov containing:
 - VFC PIN
 - Number of refrigerator DDLs requested
 - Number of freezer DDLs requested
 - If a docking station is needed

3) Temperature Documentation

► Requirement:

- Storage unit(s) current temperatures are checked and recorded on a temperature log twice daily (at the start and end of the workday) along with staff initials and time of readings
- Storage unit(s) minimum and maximum temperatures are checked and recorded on a temperature log at the start of each work day along with staff initials and time of reading

► Action Step:

- Designated staff must check and record temperatures twice daily (at the beginning and end of each day) and min/max at start of day
- Ensure recordings capture staff initials/name and time of reading

3) Temperature Documentation – cont

► Requirement:

- Storage temperature logs are maintained for at least 3 years for each unit either in electronic or paper format
- The designated person reviews temperature logs at least weekly to ensure proper temperature recording and takes action if out of range temperatures are found on the logs during review
- The data logger is downloaded and reviewed at least every two weeks and whenever the data logger alarms

4) VFC Storage & Handling Plan

► Requirement:

- Vaccine S&H Plan must be reviewed, signed, and updated at least annually
- Updated 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 and signature on document

Action Step: Review clinic S&H Plan today with all immunization staff

General Reminders & Resources

2025 VFC Webinar Series

- ▶ Webinar from 12:00 -1:00 p.m. on
 - July 23: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/2e85a508-6bd1-4ea8-8d33-8795a8e286f7@8d2c7b4d-085a-4617-8536-38a76d19b0da>
 - November 19: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/574f4fb7-62f4-48e2-a07f-37b35b484023@8d2c7b4d-085a-4617-8536-38a76d19b0da>
- ▶ 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>

2025 IRIS Webinars

- ▶ Topics will include:
 - IRIS inventory management
 - Mass vaccination
 - Reminder recall
 - Vaccine transfers
 - Document vaccine doses administered
 - Documentation of vaccine wastage
 - Patient search tips
 - How to unlock user accounts and reset user passwords
- ▶ Registration is required for each session via Teams
- ▶ [**2025 IRIS Webinar Schedule**](#)
- ▶ Contact the IRIS Help Desk at 800-374-3958 with any questions

Tuesday, June 10, 12:00-1:00 p.m.

Meeting ID: 294 103 963 690; Passcode: bC7oF9Ws
Register [here](#).

Tuesday, July 8, 12:00-1:00 p.m.

Meeting ID: 291 789 474 147; Passcode: vF7k6yF9
Register [here](#).

Tuesday, August 12, 12:00-1:00 p.m.

Meeting ID: 267 109 516 465; Passcode: TR9gN7u9
Register [here](#)

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>

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
IRIS Help Desk: 1-800-374-3958			
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
Vaccines for Children Program: IowaVFC@hhs.iowa.gov			
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
Immunization Assessments			
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	https://hhs.iowa.gov/public-health/immunization		Fax: 1-800-831-6292

Questions

Iowa VFC Program

IowaVFC@hhs.iowa.gov

Phone: 1-800-831-6293

Fax: 1-800-831-6292



Health and
Human Services