



# Iowa's Vaccines for Children Program

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Health and  
Human Services

# Presentation Outline

- ▶ VFC Program overview
- ▶ VFC Program eligibility
- ▶ VFC Program enrolled providers
- ▶ COVID-19 vaccine information
- ▶ Additional resources

# VFC Program Overview

- ▶ VFC Program operationally began October 1, 1994.
- ▶ Federally funded program that provides public-purchased vaccine for eligible children at no cost to VFC-enrolled providers.
- ▶ Covers all vaccines recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).
- ▶ Saves parents and enrolled providers out-of-pocket expenses for vaccine.
- ▶ Eliminates or reduces vaccine cost as a barrier to vaccinate eligible children.
- ▶ Reduces the practice of referring children for vaccination.

# Vaccines for Children

Protecting America's children every day

The Vaccines for Children (VFC) program helps ensure that all children have a better chance of getting their recommended vaccines. VFC has helped prevent disease and save lives.



CDC estimates that vaccination of children born between 1994 and 2023 will:

prevent **508 million** illnesses  
*(32 million hospitalizations)*



more than the current  
population of the entire U.S.A.

help avoid  
**1,129,000**  
deaths



greater than the  
population of Seattle, WA

save nearly **\$2.7 trillion** in total  
societal costs  
*(that includes \$540 billion in direct costs)*



more than \$8,000 for each American

Updated 2023 analysis using methodology from "Benefits from Immunization during the Vaccines for Children Program Era—United States, 1994–2023"



[www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vfcprogram/](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vfcprogram/)

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# Available Single Antigen and Combination Vaccines

- ▶ Chickenpox (Varicella)
- ▶ COVID-19
- ▶ DTaP
- ▶ Hib (*Haemophilus influenzae type b*)
- ▶ Hepatitis A
- ▶ Hepatitis B
- ▶ Human Papillomavirus (HPV)
- ▶ Influenza (flu)
- ▶ Meningococcal (MenACWY/MenB)
- ▶ Measles, Mumps, Rubella
- ▶ Pneumococcal
- ▶ Polio (IPV)
- ▶ Rotavirus
- ▶ Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)
- ▶ Tetanus (Td and Tdap)

## Available Vaccines and Covered Age Ranges



# VFC Program Eligibility

Children birth through 18 years of age who meet **at least one** criteria:

- ▶ American Indian/Alaskan Native
- ▶ Medicaid enrolled (not Hawki)
- ▶ Uninsured
- ▶ Underinsured\*

*\* Underinsured children are only eligible for VFC vaccines through federally qualified health centers (FQHC), rural health clinics (RHC) & local public health agencies (LPHAs)*

Not VFC eligible:

- Adults over 18 years of age
- Private insurance
- Hawki is considered full coverage insurance plan
- Children receiving vaccines at an LPHA cannot automatically be considered VFC eligible

# Additional VFC Program Eligibility

- ▶ VFC Program and other funding sources support the Universal Birth Dose Hepatitis B Vaccine Program for enrolled Birthing Hospitals:
  - Hepatitis B vaccine is available for the entire birth cohort at no cost to the hospital.
  - Birthing hospitals must enroll as a VFC Program provider and follow VFC program requirements.
- ▶ VFC vaccine may be administered to eligible children from other states.

# VFC Program Providers—Benefits

- ▶ The VFC Program provides all routinely recommended vaccines at no cost
  - Vaccines protect against 18 different diseases
  - New products added as they become available
- ▶ VFC Providers:
  - can charge an administration fee\* for each vaccine given (not antigen)
  - cannot refuse to vaccinate children if the family is unable to pay administration fees
  - can charge additional fees for the office visit or non vaccine services such as an eye exam or blood test

*\* **Non-Medicaid-eligible children:** cap of \$19.68 per vaccine dose*

***Medicaid VFC-eligible children:** reimbursement set by the Iowa Medicaid agency or contracted Medicaid health plans*



# Iowa VFC Providers

## **597** enrolled providers (clinics)

- 282 private practices
- 146 rural health clinics
- 91 LPHAs
- 33 FQHCs
- 23 birthing hospitals
- 9 urgent/immediate care
- 4 school-based clinics
- 3 pharmacies
- other provider types: family planning clinics, mobile provider, juvenile detention center, IHS clinic

*Data as of 11/19/2025*

# New Vaccines: COVID-19

Product	Age Indication	NDC
2025-2026 Moderna Spikevax	6 months – 11 years	80777-0113-80
2025-2026 Moderna Spikevax	12+ years	80777-0112-96
2025-2026 Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty	5–11 years	00069-2501-10
2025-2026 Pfizer BioNTech Comirnaty	12+ years	00069-2528-10
2025-2026 Novavax Nuvaxovid	12+ years	80631-0207-10

# 2025-26 COVID-19 Routine Vaccination Schedule

^ Janssen (J & J) vaccine has been deauthorized. Follow schedule for 12+ years for any prior doses.

§ Minimum interval 2 months, except for Mnexspike, the minimum interval is 3 months.

^^ Vaccination is especially recommended to 2–64-year-olds who have risk factors, are in close contact with others with risk factors, or have never been vaccinated.

Adapted from the California Department of Public Health

Age	Vaccine	If unvaccinated:	If had any prior doses, give 2025-26 doses:
6 – 23 months	Moderna–Spikevax (pediatric)	1st Dose → 4-8 weeks → 2nd Dose	<p>If 1 prior Moderna dose: 4-8 weeks → 1</p> <p>If 1 prior Pfizer dose: 4-8 weeks → 1    ≥8 weeks → 2</p> <p>If ≥2 prior Moderna/Pfizer doses: ≥8 weeks → 1</p>
2 – 4 years <sup>^^</sup>	Moderna–Spikevax (pediatric)	1 Dose	If ≥1 prior Moderna/Pfizer dose: ≥8 weeks → 1
5 – 11 years <sup>^^</sup>	Moderna–Spikevax (pediatric)	1 Dose	<p>If 1 or more prior doses (of any of the brands), then<sup>^</sup>:</p> <p>≥2 months → 1 Spikevax/Comirnaty</p>
	Pfizer–Comirnaty (pediatric)	1 Dose	
12+ years <sup>^^</sup>	Pfizer–Comirnaty (adol/adult)	1 Dose	<p>If 1 or more prior doses (of any of the brands), then<sup>^</sup>:</p> <p>Ages 12–64 years<sup>^^</sup>: ≥2 months<sup>§</sup> → 1 Spikevax/Mnexspike/Comirnaty/Nuvaxovid</p> <p>Ages 65+ years: ≥2 months<sup>§</sup> → 1    6 months<sup>§</sup> → 2</p>
	Moderna–Spikevax (adol/adult)	1 Dose	
	Moderna–Mnexspike	1 Dose	
	Sanofi/Novavax Nuvaxovid	1 Dose	

# 2025-26 COVID-19 Vaccine

## Moderately/Severely Immunocompromised Vaccination Schedule

Age	Vaccine	If unvaccinated:				If had any prior doses, give 2025-26 doses:			
6 months–4 years	Moderna–Spikevax (pediatric)	1st Dose	4 weeks	2nd Dose	≥4 weeks	3rd Dose	6 months <sup>§</sup>	Additional Dose(s)*	
5–11 years	Moderna–Spikevax (pediatric)	1st Dose	4 weeks	2nd Dose	≥4 weeks	3rd Dose	6 months <sup>§</sup>	Additional Dose(s)*	
12+ years	Pfizer–Comirnaty (pediatric)	1st Dose	3 weeks	2nd Dose	≥4 weeks	3rd Dose	6 months <sup>§</sup>	Additional Dose(s)*	
12+ years	Pfizer–Comirnaty (adol/adult)	1st Dose	3 weeks	2nd Dose	≥4 weeks	3rd Dose	6 months <sup>§</sup>	Additional Dose(s)*	
	Moderna–Spikevax (adol/adult)	1st Dose	4 weeks	2nd Dose	≥4 weeks	3rd Dose	6 months <sup>§</sup>	Additional Dose(s)*	
	Moderna–Mnexspike	1st Dose	4 weeks	2nd Dose	≥4 weeks	3rd Dose	6 months <sup>§</sup>	Additional Dose(s)*	
	Sanofi/Novavax Nuvaxovid	1st Dose	3 weeks	2nd Dose <sup>¶</sup>			6 months <sup>§</sup>	Additional Dose(s)*	

## 2025-26 COVID-19 Vaccine Routine Vaccination Schedule

Adapted from the California Department of Public Health

\* Further doses may be given under shared clinical decision-making at a minimum interval of 2 months.

\*\* Ages 5-11 years may be given Moderna or Pfizer after >3 prior doses. Ages 12+ years may be given Spikevax, Comirnaty, Nuvaxovid, or Mnexspike.

§ Minimum interval 2 months, except for Mnexspike, the minimum interval is 3 months.

¶ If >8 weeks passed since the first Novavax dose, any 2025–26 COVID-19 vaccine (Spikevax/Comirnaty/Nuvaxovid/Mnexspike) may be given.

# 2025-26 COVID-19 Vaccines

## Federal VFC Program Policy

- ▶ COVID-19 vaccine has been added to the list of non-routine vaccines with updated guidance for stocking inventory of non-routine vaccines
- ▶ 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
- ▶ Iowa VFC Program will identify accessible locations to refer VFC-eligible children
  - VFC Program providers are still encouraged to carry COVID-19 vaccines to vaccinate their patient populations

[VFC Operations Guide—2024–2025](#)

# VFC Program Resources

- ▶ Iowa HHS Immunization Program:  
<https://hhs.iowa.gov/health-prevention/vaccines-immunizations>
- ▶ VFC Program:  
<https://hhs.iowa.gov/health-prevention/vaccines-immunizations/vfc>
- ▶ Iowa HHS Immunization Materials:  
[Online order form](#)
- ▶ Iowa Public Health Tracking Portal—Immunization Data:  
<https://hhs.iowa.gov/data-reports/health-disease/immunization>





# Questions?

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