



VFC Program Update

Ramping Up Vaccination Efforts

As children close out their summer breaks and head back into schools, now is the time to ramp up your vaccination efforts! Many children may need to catch up on immunizations as they are going back to school this fall. Please take this into consideration when submitting your routine VFC vaccine order by ordering additional doses as needed. Additionally, please remember it may take up to two weeks from the date of submission to receive any vaccine order. Employ the following strategies to help [fill the immunization gap](#):

- Coadministration of vaccines saves patients from multiple visits to get caught up with their immunizations – see [Coadministrations with Other Vaccines guidelines](#) developed by our partners at the California COVID-19 Vaccination Program.
- Take every opportunity to assess the immunization status of all incoming patients, including flu and COVID vaccines, when applicable.

Protect Your Patients 12+ Against COVID – Enroll in the COVID-19 Program

Maximize every immunization opportunity to protect patients by joining the [California COVID-19 Vaccination Program](#) as soon as possible! COVID-19 vaccine is currently recommended for your patients at least 12 years of age, and expansion to younger ages is likely late Fall. Jointly with the American Academy of Paediatrics, the California Academy of Physicians, and the California Immunization Coalition, the California Department of Public Health is urging VFC providers to join the COVID-19 vaccination efforts.

In case you missed it...

- If you did not get a chance to join our recent Afternoon TEAch webinar on how the CA COVID-19 Vaccination Program can work with your practice's immunization efforts, you can still view the archived webinar ([Slides](#) | [Video](#)).
- The California Immunization Coalition hosted its 7th COVID Conversation on August 19, 2021, providing updates on COVID variants and vaccine effectiveness, COVID-19 vaccination in Children, Immunity, and Booster Doses. [Webinar recording and presentations](#) are now available on [CIC's COVID Conversation Series webpage](#).

As a reminder, the state's CalVaxGrant offers financial support, up to \$55,000, to [eligible providers](#) to support vaccination efforts. The deadline for this grant has been extended to September 10, 2021. Allowed reimbursable expenses include staffing, technology, infrastructure, administration, and equipment (including purchase of vaccine storage units and corresponding data loggers). Many providers have taken advantage of this opportunity to support COVID-19 vaccination efforts, or to be prepared when vaccine's eligibility ages are expanded.

Protect Vaccines! Protect Kids!

Wildfires and Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) events are currently occurring throughout California. Vaccine deliveries in your area may be affected. Please review these [Vaccine Management tips during PSPS events](#) along with your Emergency Vaccine Management Plan with all staff.

- If there is an active fire or a power shutoff in place without an end date/time in your area, please do not submit a request for vaccines until it is cleared.
- If your site does not have a generator, we recommend having a partner facility with appropriate vaccine storage units to move vaccine to if power is lost. (The partner facility may need to be out of the immediate area.)
- Make sure your [Vaccine Management Plan](#), including the emergency section, is up to date.
- Keep transport containers/data loggers on hand and ready to go. Some containers may be qualified to hold appropriate temperature for a long period of time.

- As soon as you hear there will be a power shutoff, start planning and determine if you may need to move the vaccine.
- Contact your local health department or the VFC Customer Service Center if you need assistance.

Customer Service Center Closures

The VFC Customer Service Center will be closed on the following day:

- Monday, September 6, 2021 (in observance of Labor Day)

Orders will continue to be received throughout this closure. Normal business hours will resume on the following day, Tuesday, September 7.

Thank you,



California Department of Public Health | Immunization Branch
Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program
850 Marina Bay Parkway
Richmond, CA 94804
Phone: 877-2GET-VFC (877-243-8832)
Fax: 877-FAXX-VFC (877-329-9832)
Email: MyVFCVaccines@cdph.ca.gov

VACCINES for CHILDREN
CALIFORNIA

