

Vaccines for Children (VFC) Pharmacy Pilot Program Webinar

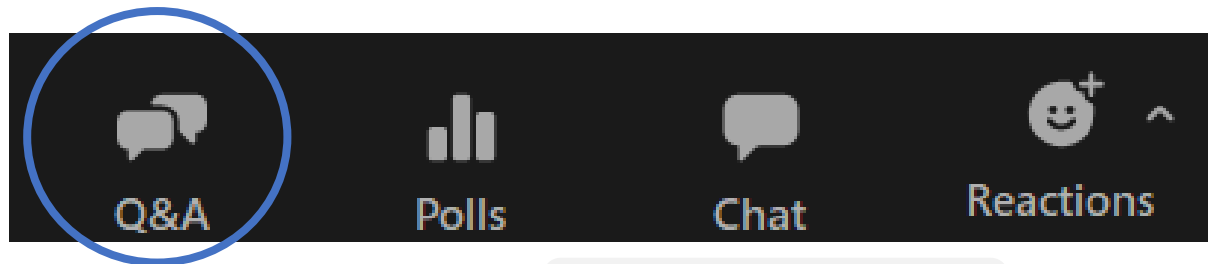
Thursday, July 11, 2024

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm



Questions

During today's Roundtable, please use the Q&A panel to ask your questions so VFC panelists and subject matter experts can respond directly.



Resource links will be dropped into, "Chat"



Housekeeping

Reminder to Attendees:



Today's session is being recorded. For slides, webinar recordings, and other postings, see the [VFC Pharmacy Pilot Program EZIZ Webpage](#).



If you have post-webinar questions, please email leslie.amani@cdph.ca.gov

Reminder to Panelists:



Please mute yourself when not speaking.

Please monitor the Q&A panel for questions you may be able to answer.

Agenda: Thursday, July 11, 2024

No.	Item	Speaker(s)	Time (PM)
1	Welcome and Introductions	Leslie Amani (CDPH)	12:00 – 12:05
2	VFC Program Overview and Requirements	Claudia Aguiluz (CDPH)	12:05 – 12:10
3	VFC Pharmacy Pilot Information	Brenton Louie (CDPH)	12:10 – 12:20
4	VFC Program Enrollment	Brenton Louie (CDPH)	12:20 – 12:25
5	DHCS: VFC Billing and Reimbursement	Lisa Ghotbi, PharmD, Chief, Pharmacy Benefits Division (DHCS)	12:25 – 12:35
6	Q&A and Discussion	Attendees and VFC Pharmacy Pilot Program SMEs (CDPH)	12:35 – 12:55
7	Resources	Leslie Amani (CDPH)	12:55 – 1:00

Thank you for attending today's session!

Vaccines For Children Program Overview and Requirements

Claudia Aguiluz, CDPH



Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program

- VFC is a federally funded program which provides all routine vaccines recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) at no cost to the participating healthcare provider.
- In California, over 50% of children under 19 years of age are eligible to receive VFC supplied vaccines.
- Eligible **children are entitled** to receive all Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended vaccines through VFC.
- Any healthcare provider authorized in the State of California to prescribe vaccines may enroll in the California Vaccines for Children Program and offer age-appropriate ACIP recommended vaccines.

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 2021 will:

- prevent **472 million** illnesses
(29.8 million hospitalizations) → more than the current population of the entire U.S.A.
- help avoid **1,052,000** deaths → greater than the population of Seattle, WA
- save nearly **\$2.2 trillion** in total societal costs
(that includes \$479 billion in direct costs) → more than \$5,000 for each American

Updated 2021 analysis using methods from: "Benefits from immunization during the Vaccines for Children Program Era—United States, 1994–2021"

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vfcprogram/

Who is Eligible to Receive VFC Vaccines?

Children from birth through 18 years of age that meet one of the following criteria:

- Enrolled or eligible for Medi-Cal/Medicaid
- Uninsured/No health insurance
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Underinsured (at an FQHC or RHC only)

The VFC Programs was created to meet the vaccination needs of children from birth through 18 years of age.

WHO'S ELIGIBLE

Children eligible to receive VFC provided vaccines are:

- MEDICAID (MEDI-CAL)
- CHILD HEALTH & DISABILITY PREVENTION (CHDP) PROGRAM
- NO HEALTH INSURANCE*
- UNDER-INSURED**
- AMERICAN INDIAN
- ALASKAN NATIVE

State of California VFC Program
Phone: (877) 2GET-VFC
Fax: (877) FAXX-VFC

* Providers may charge cash patients who have no health insurance an administrative fee up to a maximum of \$26.03 per dose.

** Underinsured means your patient has health insurance, but it won't cover vaccines, only covers selected vaccines, or it has a fixed dollar limit for vaccines. These children are eligible for the non-covered vaccines or after the cap/dollar limit has been reached. Under-insured children are eligible to receive VFC-supplied vaccines only at Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) or Rural Health Center (RHC).

www.e2iz.org

1000 1008 (1/15)

[Job Aid: Who is Eligible to Receive VFC Vaccines?](#)

Benefits of VFC Participation

- Access to all ACIP-recommended vaccines at no upfront cost
- Reimbursement from Medi-Cal
- Increased opportunities for immunization
- On-time immunization and protection for your community



Vaccine Purchase

- VFC Vaccines are purchased in bulk, at reduced pricing through vaccine manufacturer contracts negotiated by CDC on an annual basis
 - Purchased vaccines constitute national vaccine supply and stockpile supply
 - Purchased vaccines are based on:
 - Each state's population estimates
 - ACIP Recommended dosing and schedules and
 - pre-defined spend plans for each vaccine, down to the NDC level
- Purchased vaccines are stored at 2 national vaccine distribution locations in the nation: Aurora, CO and Memphis, TN

Pediatric/VFC Vaccine Price List

Vaccine	Brandname/ Tradename	NDC	Packaging	CDC Cost/ Dose	Private Sector Cost/ Dose	Contract End Date	Manufacturer	Contract Number
Dengue Tetravalent Vaccine, Live [7]	Dengvaxia	49281-0605-01	1 pack - 1 dose vial	\$98.81	\$104.01	3/31/2025	Sanofi Pasteur	75D30124D18658
DTaP [1]	Daptacel®	49281-0286-10	10 pack - 1 dose vial	\$21.688	\$29.311	3/31/2025	Sanofi Pasteur	75D30124D18658
DTaP [1]	Infanrix®	58160-0810-52	10 pack - 1 dose syringe	\$21.658	\$28.795	3/31/2025	GlaxoSmithKline	75D30124D18655
DTaP-IPV [2]	Quadracel™	49281-0564-10	10 pack - 1 dose vial	\$47.906	\$62.206	3/31/2025	Sanofi Pasteur	75D30124D18658
		49281-0564-15	10 pack - 1 dose syringe	\$47.906	\$62.206			
DTaP-IPV [2]	Kinrix®	58160-0812-52	10 pack - 1 dose syringe	\$48.279	\$61.079	3/31/2025	GlaxoSmithKline	75D30124D18655
DTaP-Hep B-IPV [4]	Pediarix®	58160-0811-52	10 pack - 1 dose syringe	\$66.069	\$97.967	3/31/2025	GlaxoSmithKline	75D30124D18655
DTaP-IP-HI [4]	Pentacel®	49281-0511-05	5 pack - 1 dose vial	\$70.186	\$114.524	3/31/2025	Sanofi Pasteur	75D30124D18658

Requirements – VFC Program

Become familiar with VFC requirements and recommendations:

- [Program Participation Requirements at a Glance](#) (IMM-1240)
- [VFC Program Provider Agreement](#) (IMM-1241)
- [CA VFC Program Provider Agreement Addendum](#) (IMM-1242)
- [VFC Provider Operations Manual](#) (IMM-1248)

California Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program
2024 Program Participation Requirements at a Glance

Requirement	Summary	Resources/Job Aids
Vaccine Management Plan	Maintain a current and completed vaccine management plan (VMP) for routine and emergency situations that includes practice-specific, vaccine-management guidelines and protocols, names of staff with temperature monitoring responsibilities, and completion dates of required EZIZ lessons for key practice staff. Review and update the VMP at least annually, when VFC Program requirements change, and when staff with designated vaccine-management responsibilities change. Designate a staff member responsible for updating the practice's VMP. Staff with assigned vaccine-management responsibilities must review, sign, and date the VMP annually and each time it is updated. Follow emergency guidelines to prepare for, respond to, and recover from any vaccine-related emergencies. Store the vaccine management plan in a location easily accessible by staff, ideally near the vaccine storage units. For practices using mobile units to administer VFC-supplied vaccines: Mobile-only clinics or clinics with mobile units must maintain a current and complete Mobile Unit Vaccine Management Plan (IMM-1276) and keep it in the mobile unit.	Vaccine Management Plan (IMM-1122) PDF Mobile Unit Vaccine Management Plan (IMM-1276) PDF Provider Operations Manual (IMM-1248) Chapter 3
Key Practice Staff	Designate and maintain key practice staff in the practice. A change in the practice staff requires a signed request form. There are four required categories of key practice staff: 1. Provider of Record 2. Vaccine Coordinator 3. Backup Vaccine Coordinator 4. Record Designer	Vaccine Coordinator Roles & Responsibilities (IMM-968) Key Practice Staff Change Request Form (IMM-1166)

VACCINES FOR CHILDREN PROGRAM PROVIDER AGREEMENT

PROVIDER AGREEMENT
INSTRUCTIONS: The official VFC-registered health care provider signing the agreement must be a practitioner authorized to administer pediatric vaccines under state law, who will also be held accountable for compliance by the entire organization and its VFC providers with the responsible conditions outlined in the provider enrollment agreement. The individuals listed here must sign the provider agreement.

To receive publicly funded vaccines at no cost, I agree to the following conditions on behalf of myself and all the practitioners, nurses, and others associated with the health care facility of which I am the medical director or practice administrator or equivalent:

- I will annually submit a provider profile representing populations served by my practice/facility. I will submit more frequently if 1) the number of children served changes or 2) the status of the facility changes during the calendar year.
I will screen patients and document eligibility status at each immunization encounter for VFC eligibility (i.e., federally or state vaccine-eligible) and administer VFC-purchased vaccine to children who are 18 years of age or younger who meet one or more of the following:
 A. Federally Vaccine-eligible Children (VFC-eligible)
 1. Are an American Indian or Alaska Native;
 2. Are enrolled in Medicaid;
 3. Have no health insurance;
 4. Are undocumented. A child who has health insurance, but the coverage is not continuous, is not a child whose insurance covers only selected vaccines (e.g., immunizations for children in Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), or Rural Health Clinic (RHC) deputation agreement.
 B. State Vaccine-eligible Children
 a) In addition, to the extent that my state designates additional categories of children as "vaccine-eligible," I will screen for such eligibility as listed in the provider agreement and will administer state-funded doses (including 317 funds) to children aged 0 through 18 years that do not meet one or more of the categories (VFC-eligible), are not eligible to receive VFC-purchased vaccines, and are not identified and agreed upon in the provider profile.
 For the vaccines identified and agreed upon in the provider profile:
 a) In the provider's medical judgment, and in accordance with the provider's medical judgment, and in accordance with the particular requirements of state law, other exemptions.
 b) The particular requirements of state law, other exemptions.

Vaccines for Children Program Provider Operations Manual

1. Provider Profile

- Designate the on-site Provider of Record Designer, who is authorized to sign VFC Program documents and assume responsibility for VFC-related matters in the absence of the Provider of Record.
- Designate the on-site Vaccine Coordinator and Backup Vaccine Coordinator (IMM-968), who are responsible for implementing the practice's vaccine management plan (IMM-1122).
- Immediately report to the VFC Program changes to key practice staff assuming VFC roles (Vaccine Coordinator or Backup, Provider of Record or Designer); a change in the Provider of Record or Designer requires a signed request form (IMM-1166).
- Immediately report to the VFC Program changes to the practice address or account ownership, which may require additional follow-up.

2. Vaccine Management Plan

- Maintain a current and complete vaccine management plan (IMM-1122) for routine and emergency situations that includes practice-specific, vaccine-management guidelines and protocols, names of staff with temperature monitoring responsibilities, and required EZIZ lesson completion dates for all key practice staff.
- Review and update the plan at least annually, when VFC Program requirements change, and when staff with designated vaccine-management responsibilities change, and when staff with assigned vaccine-management responsibilities must review, sign, and date the vaccine management plan annually and each time it is updated.
- Follow emergency guidelines to prepare for, respond to, and recover from any vaccine-related emergencies.
- Store the vaccine management plan in a location easily accessible by staff, ideally near the vaccine storage units.
- For practices using mobile units to administer VFC-supplied vaccines: Mobile-only clinics or clinics with mobile units must maintain a current and complete Mobile Unit Vaccine Management Plan (IMM-1276) and keep it in the mobile unit.

3. Training

- Anyone acting in VFC roles (Provider of Record and Designer, Vaccine Coordinator and Backup) must complete the required EZIZ lessons when hired and annually thereafter; staff must demonstrate competency in their assigned VFC roles.
- Any clinician who administers VFC-supplied vaccines must be knowledgeable of and familiar with all ACIP-recommended immunizations, including schedules, indications, dosages, and new products.
- All staff who conduct VFC Program eligibility screening, documentation, and billing (e.g., front- or back-office staff) must be knowledgeable of all VFC eligibility categories, documentation, and billing requirements, complete the related EZIZ lesson on monitor storage unit temperatures, and logging requirements.
- All staff and supervisors who monitor storage unit temperatures or sign off on VFC temperature logs must complete the related EZIZ lesson when hired and annually thereafter; they must be fully trained on use of the supplied vaccines are delivered.

VFC Pharmacy Pilot Information

Brenton Louie, CDPH



Pilot Background – Purpose

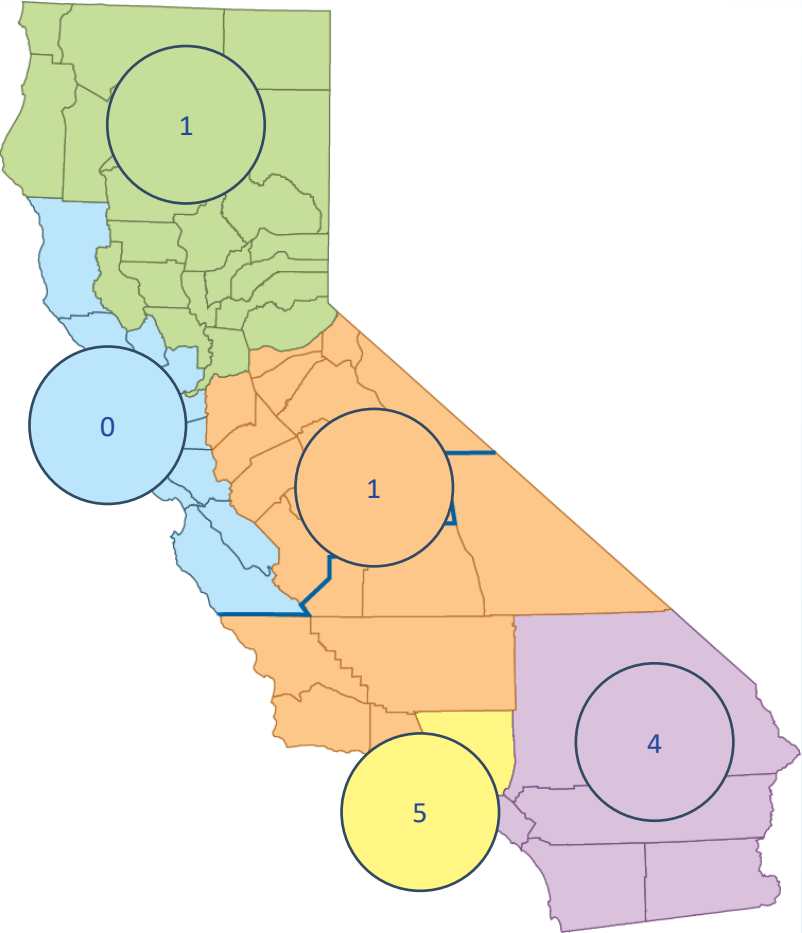
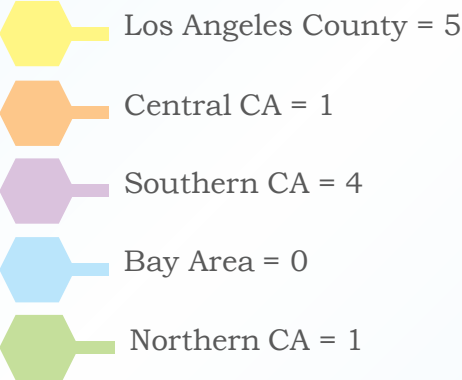


- Learn how pharmacy enrollment in VFC could assist with expansion of the VFC network in key geographic areas of CA
- Leverage pharmacy's expertise in vaccinations during the COVID-19 pandemic, to quickly reach vulnerable Medi-Cal/VFC-eligible children outside the existing provider network
- Identify VFC Program support levels required to support an open enrollment of pharmacies statewide

CA VFC Pharmacy Pilot Sites – Current status

75 Invited

11 Enrolled



Participation details

Collectively, sites have ordered a total of **4,360 doses** of VFC vaccines in an **18-month period (January 2023-June 2024)**

- 25% (1,090 doses) COVID-19
- 63% (2,740 doses) Routine
- 12% (530 doses) Flu

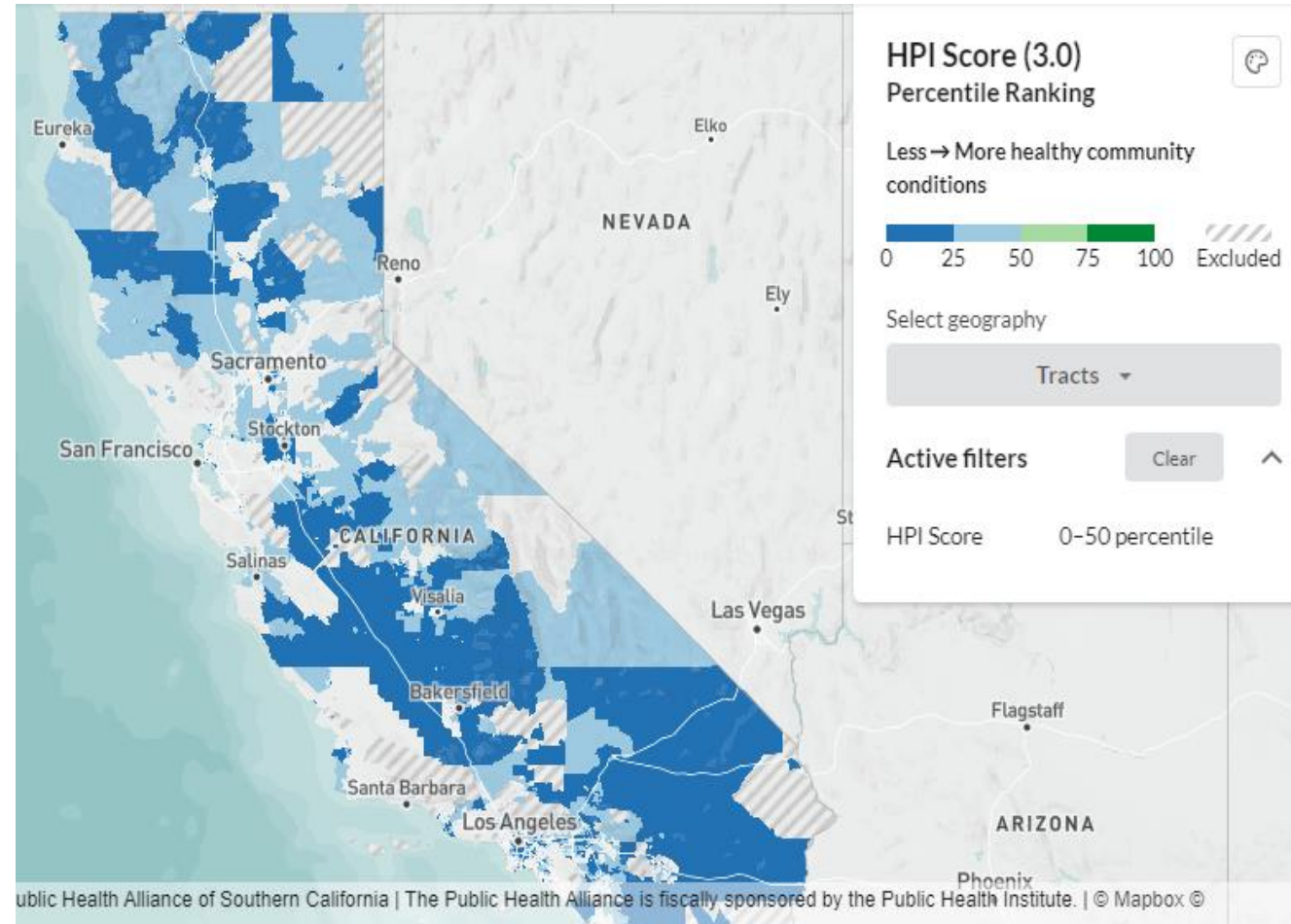
An average of 4 orders submitted during the participation period

All sites have completed an initial VFC Pharmacy Pilot Participation survey

VFC Pharmacy Pilot Selection

Initial recruitment limited to a small number of pharmacies that met the below criteria:

- Located in zip codes that rank in the two lowest quartiles of California's Healthy Places Index [\(HPI 1&2\)](#)
- High COVID-19 vaccine administration rates
- Independent/Community pharmacies



VFC Pharmacy Pilot Participation Survey: Your input will be requested!



Overall enrollment experience



Preparations and implementation of VFC in pharmacies



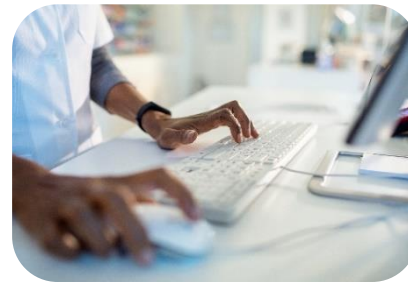
Vaccine Ordering



Vaccine Administration

✓ Required for all participating sites

✓ Gather participant feedback and experiences in **7** key areas



VFC Eligibility Screening and Documentation



Billing and Reimbursement

2022 Program Participation Requirements at a Glance for Pharmacies

Requirement	Summary	Planning Notes	Resources/Job Aids
Practice Management Plan	Develop a current and complete vaccine management plan (VMP) for routine and emergency vaccines that includes practice-specific vaccine management guidelines and protocols, names of staff with vaccine management responsibilities, and completion date of required EID update by the practice staff. Review and update the VMP at least annually, when VFC Program requirements change, and when staff with assigned vaccine management responsibilities change. Designate a staff member responsible for updating the practice's VMP. Staff with assigned vaccine management responsibilities must receive, sign, and date the VMP annually and each time it is updated. Practice management responsibilities must remain, sign, and date the VMP annually and each time it is updated. Practice management responsibilities to prepare for, respond to, and recover from any vaccine-related emergencies. Develop a vaccine management plan in a location easily accessible by staff, clearly near the vaccine change area. For practice management plans to be submitted, VFC requires practice-specific, routine or clinical, with vaccine, with most practice's current and complete vaccine management plan and keep it in the vaccine unit.	all practices are required to have a VMP.	Vaccine Management Plan Job Aid Practice Management Plan 2022-2023 Version 1 Practice Management Plan 2022-2023 Version 2 Practice Management Plan 2022-2023 Version 3
Key Practice Staff	Designate and maintain key practice staff in the practice's practice. Immediately report to the VFC Program changes in key practice staff. Assign the Provider of Record or Designee requires a signed Key Practice Staff Change Request Form. They can be replaced by VFC staff. Provider of Record (POR): The on-site physician in chief, medical director, or pharmacist, who signs the VFC "Practice Agreement" and the California VFC Region "Practice Agreement Addendum" and is ultimately accountable for the practice's compliance. Must be a licensed MD, DO, NP, PA, pharmacist, or a Certified Nurse Midwife with appropriate writing privileges in California. Provider of Record Designee: The practice person who is authorized to sign VFC Program documents and assumes responsibility for VFC-related matters in the absence of the Provider of Record. Practice Designee: An on-site employee who is fully trained and responsible for implementing and maintaining the practice vaccine management plan.	all elements are applicable to all practices.	Practice Management Plan & Addendum 2022-2023 VFC Practice Staff Change Request Form Practice Management Plan Job Aid

Participation Resources & Program Support

Pilot Insights, Thus Far!

Outreach & Communication

- Active provider enrollment process, requiring strategy & targeted communications
- Enhanced communications needed, sometimes may be difficult to get response from prospective participants- Best contacts?

Training and support

- Will need to focus support on initial and subsequent vaccine ordering guidance
- Routine ordering differs from traditional provider offices who can forecast need based on historical ordering or patient schedules
- Must focus on proper vaccine administration reporting into CAIR and using correct eligibility criteria

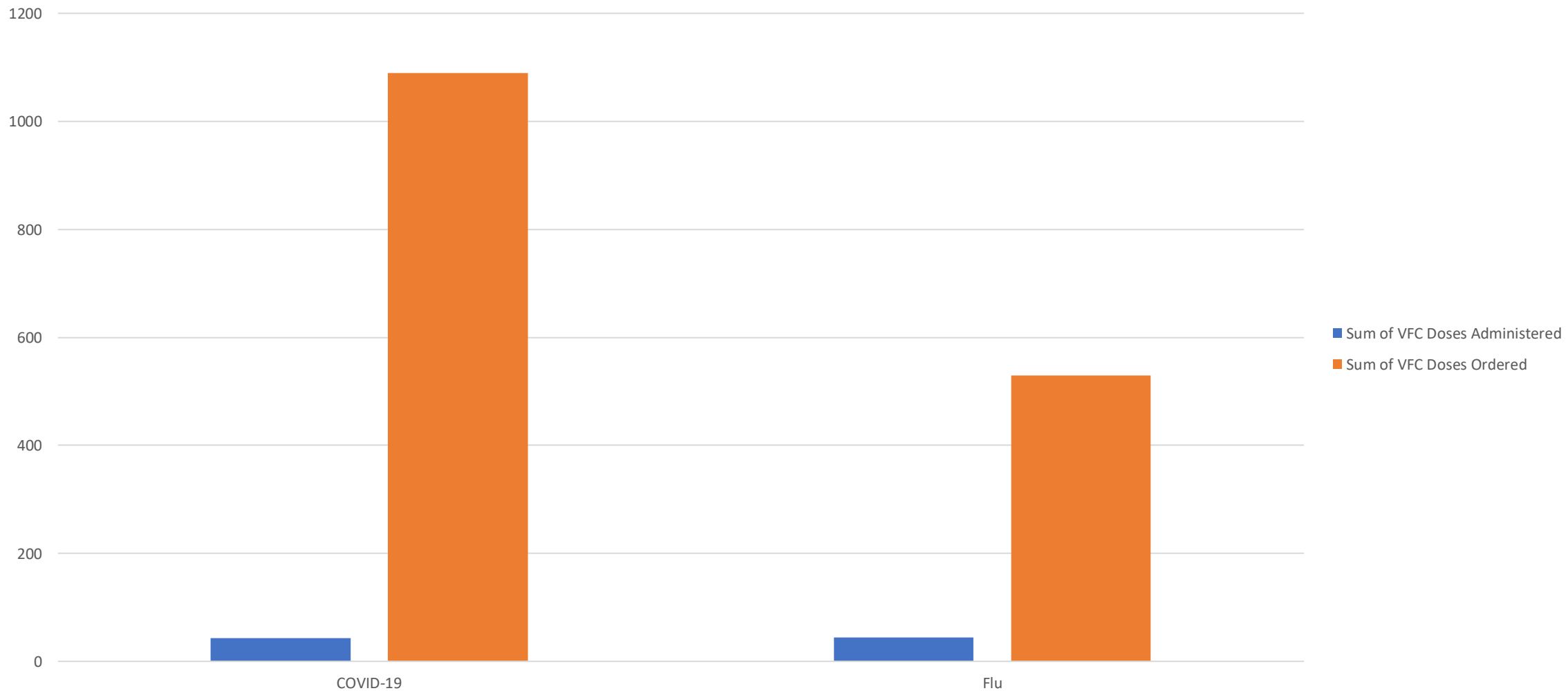
Vaccine Ordering

- Order totals and frequencies significantly lower than anticipated (low patient demand and reimbursement issues)
- While most pharmacies placed initial orders, subsequent ordering decreased (1-3 orders placed)

Billing and reimbursement

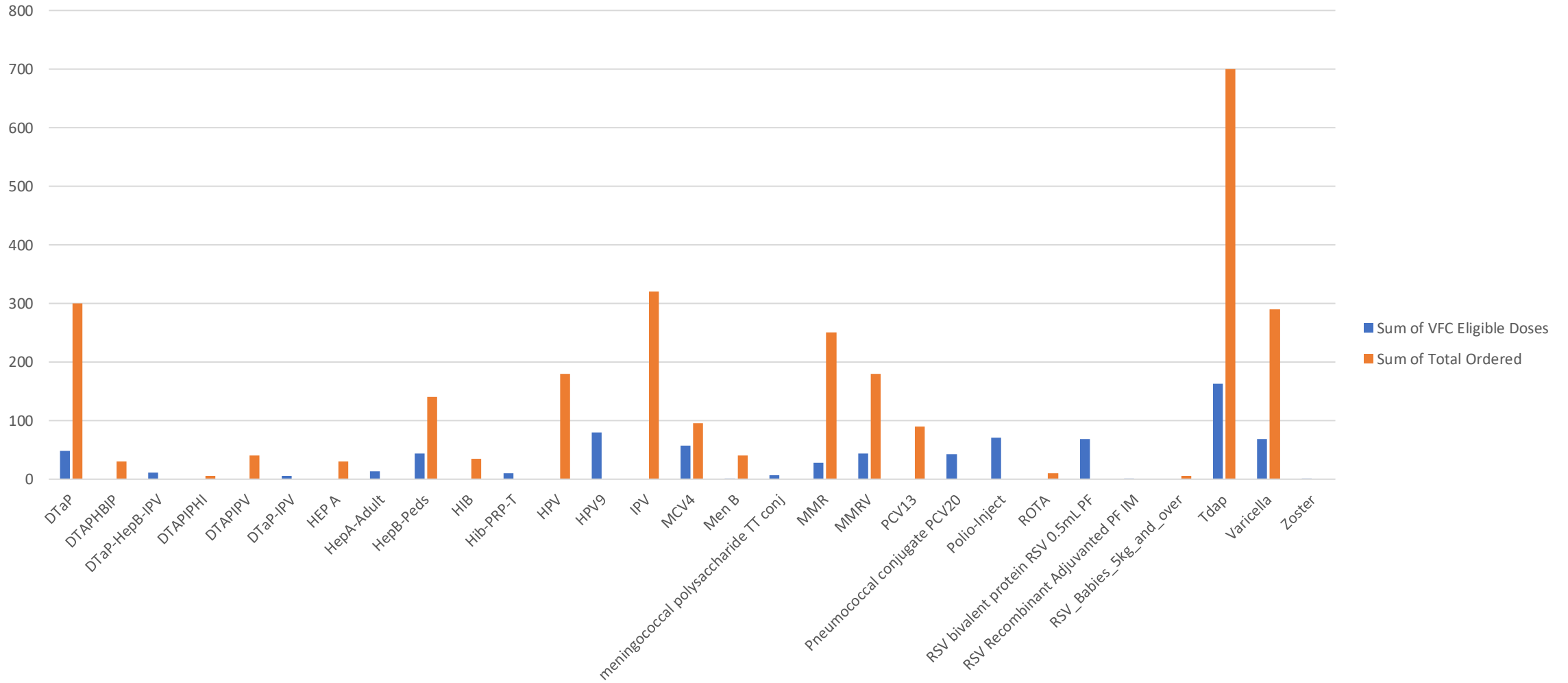
- This is not part of the VFC Program. VFC Is collaborating with DHCS to support pilot participants in this area.
- Must highlight differences between COVID programs and VFC regarding billing and reimbursements
- Billing challenges leading to low vaccine usage and ordering-Hope this will be resolved soon with changes in reimbursement.

VFC Pharmacy Pilot Doses Administered in CAIR vs. Doses Ordered January 2023 through June 2024



VFC Pharmacy Pilot

Vaccines administered in CAIR vs. Vaccines ordered
January 2023 through June 2024



Requirements for Pilot Participation

- Meet VFC Program requirements
- Administer flu vaccine to all VFC-eligible children ages 3 – 18 years
- Must have vaccine storage equipment that meets VFC Program requirements
- Report doses to CAIR or RIDE
 - Electronic data submission
 - Manual data submission
- Vaccine ordering
- Participate in required surveys, webinars, and/or other VFC-related activities

How to Enroll in VFC and Access to Vaccines

Brenton Louie, CDPH



Pharmacies & VFC Requirements

VFC providers must maintain an adequate supply of vaccines for all age-appropriate, ACIP-recommended vaccines for their patient population—excluding influenza, which is allocated separately.

- Pharmacy pilot participants are only required to carry Flu vaccine but are strongly encouraged to also carry COVID-19* vaccine.
- Can also order all other ACIP recommended vaccines
- Potential to use replacement model may impact how pharmacies meet inventory management, eligibility screening, and vaccine ordering requirements.

*Dependent on coverage and reimbursement

Identifying VFC Key Staff & Completing Trainings

- Key staff must complete all required [EZIZ training](#)

✓ = Required Lesson		When to Start Lesson	Key Practice Staff			
			Vaccine Coordinator	Backup Vaccine Coordinator	Provider of Record	Provider of Record Designee
Lessons	VFC Program Requirements*	Dec 1, 2023 or later	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Storing Vaccines*	Dec 1, 2023 or later	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Monitoring Storage Unit Temperatures*	Dec 1, 2023 or later	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Conducting a Vaccine Inventory*	Dec 1, 2023 or later	✓	✓	Encouraged	Encouraged
Review & Acknowledge	Provider Operations Manual	Dec 1, 2023 or later	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Vaccine Management Plan	Dec 1, 2023 or later	✓	✓	✓	✓

Become Familiar with VFC Requirements

- Become familiar with VFC requirements and recommendations
- Resources:
 - [VFC Enrollment Worksheet \(IMM-1243\)](#)
 - [Program Participation Requirements at a Glance \(IMM-1240P\)](#)
 - [Preparing Vaccine Storage Units \(IMM-962\)](#)
 - [Setting Up Vaccine Storage Units \(IMM-963\)](#)
 - [Data Logger Setup & Use \(IMM-1206\)](#)
 - Vaccine Management Plan – [Word template](#) | [pdf](#)
 - [VFC Provider Operations Manual \(IMM-1248\)](#)

California Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program
2022 Program Participation Requirements at a Glance for Pharmacies

Requirement	Summary	Pharmacy Notes	Resources/Job Aids
Vaccine Management Plan	<p>Maintain a current and completed vaccine management plan (VMP) for routine and emergency situations that includes practice-specific, vaccine-management guidelines and protocols, names of staff with temperature monitoring responsibilities, and completion dates of required EZIZ lessons for key practice staff.</p> <p>Review and update the VMP at least annually, when VFC Program requirements change, and when staff with designated vaccine-management responsibilities change.</p> <p>Designate a staff member responsible for updating the practice's VMP.</p> <p>Staff with assigned vaccine-management responsibilities must review, sign, and date the VMP annually and each time it is updated.</p> <p>Follow emergency guidelines to prepare for, respond to, and recover from any vaccine-related emergencies.</p> <p>Store the vaccine management plan in a location easily accessible by staff, ideally near the vaccine storage units.</p> <p>For practices using mobile units to administer VFC-supplied vaccines: Mobile-only clinics or clinics with mobile units must maintain a current and complete Mobile Unit Vaccine Management Plan and keep it in the mobile unit.</p>	All elements are applicable for pharmacies.	<p>Vaccine Management Plan (IMM-1122)</p> <p>Provider Operations Manual (IMM-1248) Chapter 3</p> <p>Mobile Unit Vaccine Management Plan (IMM-1276)</p>
Key Practice Staff	<p>Designate and maintain key practice staff in the practice's profile. Immediately report to the VFC Program changes to key practice staff. A change in the Provider of Record or Designee requires a signed Key Practice Staff Change Request Form.</p> <p>There are four required VFC roles:</p> <p>Provider of Record (POR): The on-site physician-in-chief, medical director, or equivalent, who signs the VFC "Provider Agreement" and the California VFC Program "Provider Agreement Addendum" and is ultimately accountable for the practice's compliance. Must be a licensed MD, DO, NP, PA, pharmacist, or a Certified Nurse Midwife with prescription-writing privileges in California.</p> <p>Provider of Record Designee: The on-site person who is authorized to sign VFC Program documents and assumes responsibility for VFC-related matters in the absence of the Provider of Record.</p> <p>Vaccine Coordinator: An on-site employee who is fully trained and responsible for implementing and overseeing the practice's vaccine management plan.</p>	All elements are applicable for pharmacies.	<p>Vaccine Coordinator Roles & Responsibilities (IMM-968)</p> <p>VFC Key Practice Staff Change Request Form (IMM-1166)</p>

California Department of Public Health, Immunization Branch 1 IMM-1240P (10/22)

Enrollment Support and Requirements

- Resource Kit on [Pharmacy Pilot webpage](#)
- [EZIZ Training](#)
- [Storage & Handling](#)
 - Refrigerators
 - Digital Data Loggers
- Ensure your doses administered are accurately submitted to [CAIR](#) or [RIDE](#)
- Review CAIR or RIDE doses administered reports to better understand your patient demographics



VFC Customer Service Representatives and your local VFC Field Representatives are available for any questions!

VFC Program Enrollment is a Simpler Process!


- Submit VFC enrollment application via myCAvax
 - [Active or previous myCAvax Account](#)
 - [Need to enroll in myCAvax](#)

VFC

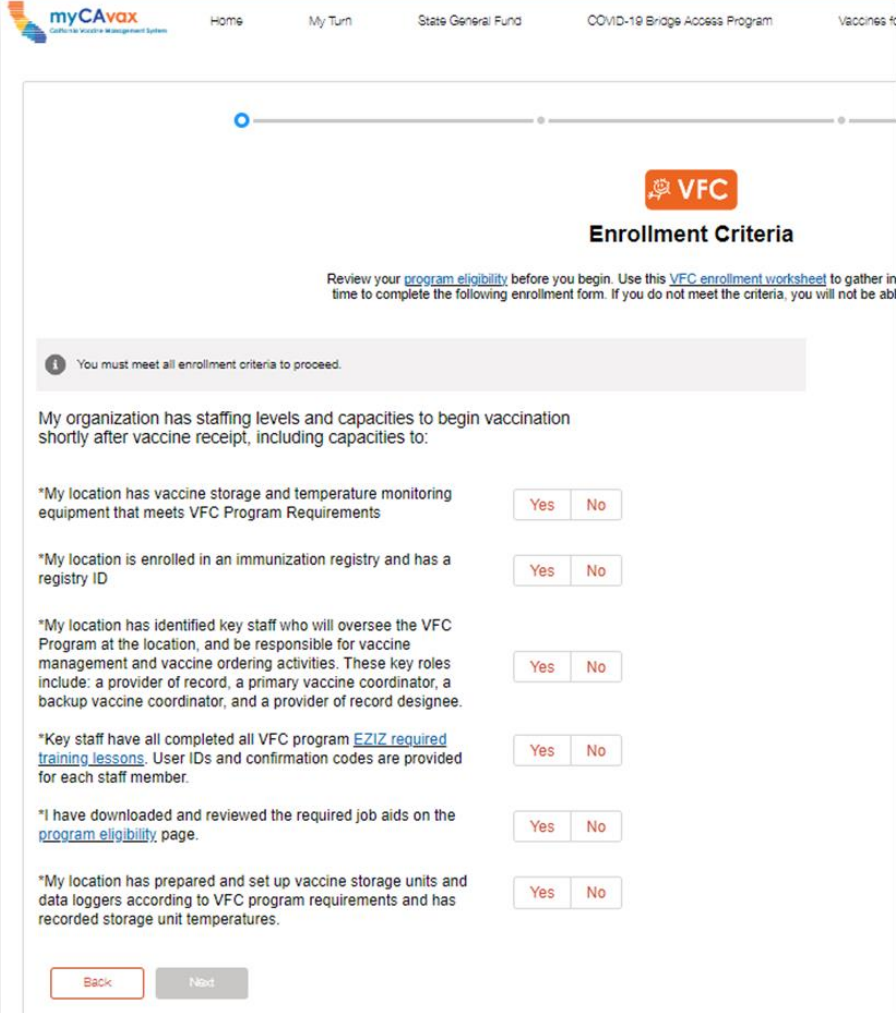
Vaccines for Children

The Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program helps families by providing vaccines at no cost to providers who serve eligible children from birth through 18 years of age.

[Enroll your organization](#)



[Chat with us](#)



The screenshot shows the myCAvax website interface for VFC Enrollment Criteria. The page includes a navigation bar with links for Home, My Turn, State General Fund, COVID-19 Bridge Access Program, and Vaccines for Children. The main content area features a progress indicator, a VFC logo, and the title "Enrollment Criteria". Below the title, there is a note: "Review your [program eligibility](#) before you begin. Use this [VFC enrollment worksheet](#) to gather information to complete the following enrollment form. If you do not meet the criteria, you will not be able to proceed." A warning message states: "You must meet all enrollment criteria to proceed." The form contains several questions with "Yes" and "No" response buttons:

- My organization has staffing levels and capacities to begin vaccination shortly after vaccine receipt, including capacities to:
 - *My location has vaccine storage and temperature monitoring equipment that meets VFC Program Requirements (Yes/No)
 - *My location is enrolled in an immunization registry and has a registry ID (Yes/No)
 - *My location has identified key staff who will oversee the VFC Program at the location, and be responsible for vaccine management and vaccine ordering activities. These key roles include: a provider of record, a primary vaccine coordinator, a backup vaccine coordinator, and a provider of record designee. (Yes/No)
 - *Key staff have all completed all VFC program [EZIZ required training lessons](#). User IDs and confirmation codes are provided for each staff member. (Yes/No)
 - *I have downloaded and reviewed the required job aids on the [program eligibility](#) page. (Yes/No)
 - *My location has prepared and set up vaccine storage units and data loggers according to VFC program requirements and has recorded storage unit temperatures. (Yes/No)

At the bottom of the form, there are "Back" and "Next" buttons.

VFC Enrollment: Setting Up for Success

Once VFC application is submitted:

VFC Program Representatives (Field Staff) will contact you with any questions or clarifications and schedule a site visit (within 5 business days).

VFC Program will process the application's approval and key contacts will receive a notification of approved enrollment (Within 5 business days).

Conduct an enrollment site visit

- Review and assist with meeting VFC program requirements and best practices
- Provide resources and education
- Answer your questions
- Approve your site for enrollment

You may submit your first vaccine request immediately upon enrollment.

VFC: General Ordering Guidelines

- Ordering through myCAvax
- Order monthly
- Account for every dose of vaccine received
- Report all administered doses to CAIR or Ride; include VFC eligibility criteria

Ordering and Administering COVID-19 Vaccine

- COVID-19 vaccine currently has special consideration for ordering in the VFC program **for Medi-Cal enrolled patients** that are 3 years of age and older.
 - Pursuant to the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness (PREP) Act, COVID-19 vaccines are a Medi-Cal Rx pharmacy benefit for members 3 years of age and older.
 - Medi-Cal members 3 years of age and older can get their COVID-19 vaccine at any pharmacy as a pharmacy benefit*
 - Must use commercial supply.
- For patients enrolled in Medi-Cal ages 6 months through 2 years of age, enrolled pharmacies may use doses supplied through the VFC Programs.
 - Pharmacists may administer immunizations to all ages pursuant to a protocol with a prescriber.
 - Order from VFC supply

*[Reimbursement details for COVID-19 vaccines](#)

Medi-Cal Reimbursement of Pharmacies as VFC-Enrolled Providers

Lisa Ghotbi, PharmD, Chief, Pharmacy Benefits Division DHCS



Medi-Cal Reimbursement of Pharmacies as Vaccines for Children (VFC)-Enrolled Providers

Effective Date and Requirements

Effective August 2024, DHCS will reimburse pharmacy providers as Vaccines for Children (VFC) Providers.

- Pharmacy must be enrolled under Medi-Cal.
- Pharmacy must enroll as a VFC provider
- Pharmacist must enroll as ORP* under Medi-Cal.
- Reimbursement is in accordance with the statutory authority of [Welfare and Institution Code Section 14132.968 \(3\)](#), under Pharmacist Services.

*Ordering, Referring, and Prescribing Provider: [DHCS Webpage](#)

Pharmacy Reimbursement Details

Three different services can be billed for administering a VFC vaccine to a Medi-Cal member:

- 1. Vaccine Administration**
- 2. Professional Dispensing Fee**
- 3. Pharmacist Services (*Evaluation and assessment for vaccination*)**

Reimbursement rates for Pharmacies are 85% of that of Medical Providers pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code, section 14132.968.

Cost of the vaccine will not be reimbursed since supplied free under the VFC program.

Billing is under the pharmacy, not individual pharmacists.

Pharmacy Reimbursement Details: Vaccine Administration Fee

	Prior to August 2024		Option #1 (Pharmacy Claims): After August 2024 (Effective retroactive to 1/1/2023)	
Member Type	Managed Care	FFS	Managed Care	FFS
Reimbursement Amount	N/A	N/A	\$7.65	\$7.65
Type of Claim	N/A	N/A	Pharmacy Claim to Medi-Cal Rx	Pharmacy Claim to Medi-Cal RX
	Prior to August 2024		Option #2 (Medical Claims): Starting August 2024 (Effective retroactive to 1/1/2023)	
Member Type	Managed Care	FFS	Managed Care	FFS
Reimbursement Amount	N/A	N/A	Determined by MCP	\$7.65
Type of Claim	N/A	N/A	Medical Claim to MCP	Medical Claim to DHCS/CA-MMIS
Resources: Billing details including vaccine CPT codes can be found in the <u>VFC section</u> of the Medi-Cal provider manual				

Reimbursement Details: Professional Dispensing Fee

	Prior to August 2024		Starting after August 2024 (Effective retroactive to 1/1/2023)	
Member Type	Managed Care	FFS	Managed Care	FFS
Reimbursement Amount	N/A	N/A	\$13.20 (less than 90,000 claims/year) \$10.05 (90,000 or more claims/year)	\$13.20 (less than 90,000 claims/year) \$10.05 (90,000 or more claims/year)
Type of Claim	N/A	N/A	Medi-Cal Rx	Medi-Cal Rx

Pharmacy Reimbursement Details:

Pharmacist Services (Consultation and Assessment) Fee

	Current and Future (no change)	
Member Type	Managed Care	FFS
Reimbursement Amount	Determined by MCP	\$15.39 (99212, Existing Patient) \$29.16 (99202, New Patient)
Type of Claim	Pharmacist Services Medical Claim to MCP	Medical Claim to DHCS/CA-MMIS *Must be submitted on a CMS 1500 form

Resources: Details on billing Pharmacist Services under FFS can be found [here](#).

Note: Patient status of “new or existing” is based on whether the patient has already been to a specific pharmacy location, not a pharmacy chain.

Pharmacy Reimbursement Details:

Total Reimbursement

	Prior to August 2024		After August 2024 (retroactive to 1/1/23)	
Member Type	Managed Care	FFS	Managed Care	FFS
Vaccine Administration	N/A	N/A	\$7.65 or Determined by MCP	\$7.65
Professional Dispensing	N/A	N/A	\$13.20 (less than 90,000 claims/year) \$10.05 (90,000 or more claims/year)	\$13.20 (less than 90,000 claims/year) \$10.05 (90,000 or more claims/year)
Pharmacist Services	Determined by MCP	\$15.39 (99212) \$29.16 (99202)	Determined by MCP	\$15.39 (99212) \$29.16 (99202)
Total	Determined by MCP	\$15.39 or \$29.16	Determined by MCP, but at least \$17.70 to \$20.85	\$33.09 to \$50.01

Next Steps/Managed Care Plans (MCP) Action

- Encourage Pharmacies to Enroll as VFC providers.
 - Phase 2 VFC Pharmacy Pilot started early July 2024
- Establish reimbursement for immunization to VFC-enrolled providers.
- Ensure provider outreach/education.
- Ensure publication in provider manual for awareness.

Training Resources

DHCS/CAMMIS FFS resources for medical claims:

- » Telephone Service Center (TSC) at 1-800-541-5555 or via the link below. [Medi-Cal Providers | Contact Us](#)

Where to Submit Claims

- » Submit paper claims to CAMMIS at the following address:
- » California MMIS Fiscal Intermediary P.O. Box 15700 Sacramento, CA 95852-1700

[CMS-1500 Submission and Timeliness Instructions \(cms sub\) \(ca.gov\)](#)

- » If billing by ASC X12 837, ensure you are enrolled to submit CMC claims.
- » [Billing Instructions: Acceptable Claims, Attachments and ASC X12N 837 v.5010 Transactions \(ctm5010 14a\) \(ca.gov\)](#)

Medi-Cal Rx resources for pharmacy claims: [Medi-Cal Rx Education and Outreach Team at MediCalRxEducationOutreach@primetherapeutics.com.](#)

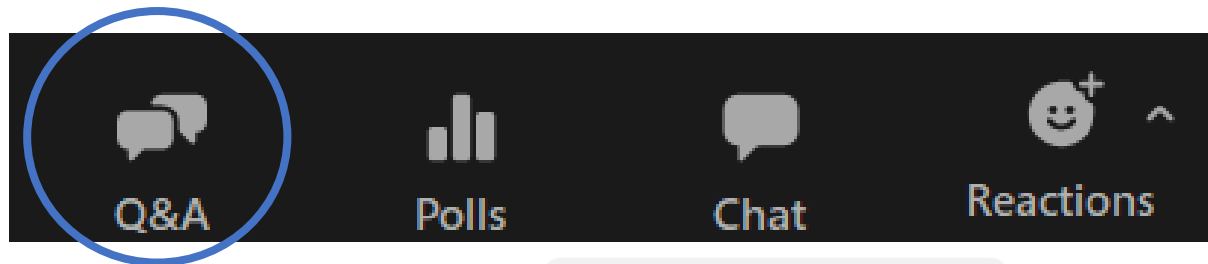
Q&A and Discussion

VFC Subject Matter Experts



Questions

During today's Roundtable, please use the Q&A panel to ask your questions so VFC panelists and subject matter experts can respond directly.



Resource links will be dropped into, "Chat"



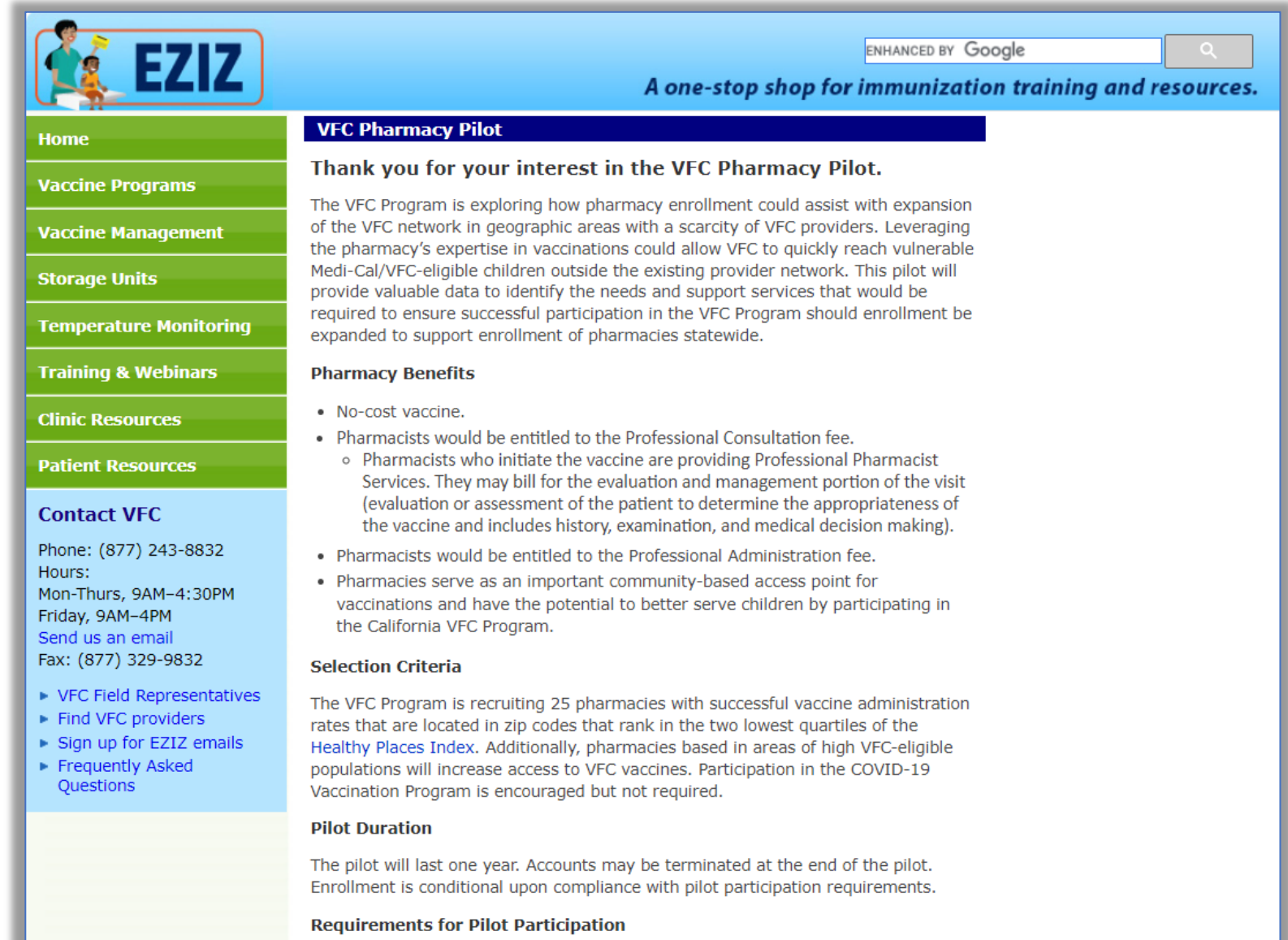
Resources

Leslie Amani , CDPH



Resource: VFC Pharmacy Pilot Program on EZIZ

- EZIZ.org is our website for providers.
- [VFC Pharmacy Pilot – California Vaccines for Children \(VFC\) \(eziz.org\)](#)



The screenshot shows the EZIZ website interface. At the top left is the EZIZ logo featuring a family. To the right is a search bar with the text "ENHANCED BY Google" and a magnifying glass icon. Below the search bar is the tagline "A one-stop shop for immunization training and resources." A green navigation menu on the left lists: Home, Vaccine Programs, Vaccine Management, Storage Units, Temperature Monitoring, Training & Webinars, Clinic Resources, and Patient Resources. The "VFC Pharmacy Pilot" page is selected, displaying a dark blue header with the title. The main content area includes a "Thank you for your interest in the VFC Pharmacy Pilot." message, a paragraph explaining the program's goal to expand the VFC network in underserved areas, and a "Pharmacy Benefits" section with a bulleted list of advantages such as no-cost vaccines and professional fees. Below this is a "Selection Criteria" section detailing the recruitment of 25 pharmacies based on their location and vaccination rates. The "Pilot Duration" section states the program will last one year, and the "Requirements for Pilot Participation" section is partially visible at the bottom.

Home

Vaccine Programs

Vaccine Management

Storage Units

Temperature Monitoring

Training & Webinars

Clinic Resources

Patient Resources

Contact VFC

Phone: (877) 243-8832
Hours:
Mon-Thurs, 9AM-4:30PM
Friday, 9AM-4PM
[Send us an email](#)
Fax: (877) 329-9832

- ▶ [VFC Field Representatives](#)
- ▶ [Find VFC providers](#)
- ▶ [Sign up for EZIZ emails](#)
- ▶ [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

VFC Pharmacy Pilot

Thank you for your interest in the VFC Pharmacy Pilot.

The VFC Program is exploring how pharmacy enrollment could assist with expansion of the VFC network in geographic areas with a scarcity of VFC providers. Leveraging the pharmacy's expertise in vaccinations could allow VFC to quickly reach vulnerable Medi-Cal/VFC-eligible children outside the existing provider network. This pilot will provide valuable data to identify the needs and support services that would be required to ensure successful participation in the VFC Program should enrollment be expanded to support enrollment of pharmacies statewide.

Pharmacy Benefits

- No-cost vaccine.
- Pharmacists would be entitled to the Professional Consultation fee.
 - Pharmacists who initiate the vaccine are providing Professional Pharmacist Services. They may bill for the evaluation and management portion of the visit (evaluation or assessment of the patient to determine the appropriateness of the vaccine and includes history, examination, and medical decision making).
- Pharmacists would be entitled to the Professional Administration fee.
- Pharmacies serve as an important community-based access point for vaccinations and have the potential to better serve children by participating in the California VFC Program.

Selection Criteria

The VFC Program is recruiting 25 pharmacies with successful vaccine administration rates that are located in zip codes that rank in the two lowest quartiles of the [Healthy Places Index](#). Additionally, pharmacies based in areas of high VFC-eligible populations will increase access to VFC vaccines. Participation in the COVID-19 Vaccination Program is encouraged but not required.

Pilot Duration

The pilot will last one year. Accounts may be terminated at the end of the pilot. Enrollment is conditional upon compliance with pilot participation requirements.

Requirements for Pilot Participation

Upcoming Webinar Opportunities

CDPH IZB Bi-weekly Updates for Providers

Next session: Friday, July 12, 2024

9:00 am – 10:30 am

