

Vaccines for Children (VFC) Pharmacy Pilot Program

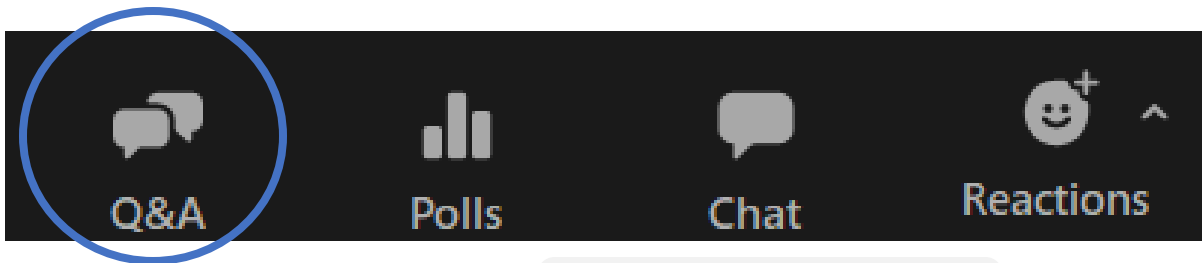
Thursday, September 26, 2024

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 myVFCvaccines@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.

Thursday, September 26, 2024

No.	Item	Speaker(s)	Time (PM)
1	Welcome and Introductions	Leslie Amani (CDPH)	12:00 – 12:05
2	VFC Pharmacy Pilot Program	Brenton Louie (CDPH)	12:05 – 12:10
3	Vaccine Supply	Claudia Aguiluz (CDPH)	12:10 – 12:15
4	VFC Program Billing and Reimbursement	Brenton Louie (CDPH)	12:15 – 12:20
5	Feedback: Sharing Enrolled Pharmacy Information with Providers and the Public	Michele Barkus (CDPH)	12:20 – 12:25
6	Medi-Cal Reimbursement of Pharmacies as VFC-Enrolled Providers	Bassant Khalil (DHCS)	12:25 – 12:30
7	Q&A and Discussion	VFC Pharmacy Pilot Program and DHCS SMEs	12:30 – 12:55
8	Resources	Leslie Amani (CDPH)	12:55 – 1:00

Thank you for attending today's session!

VFC Pharmacy Pilot Program

Brenton Louie, CDPH



Pilot Background – Purpose

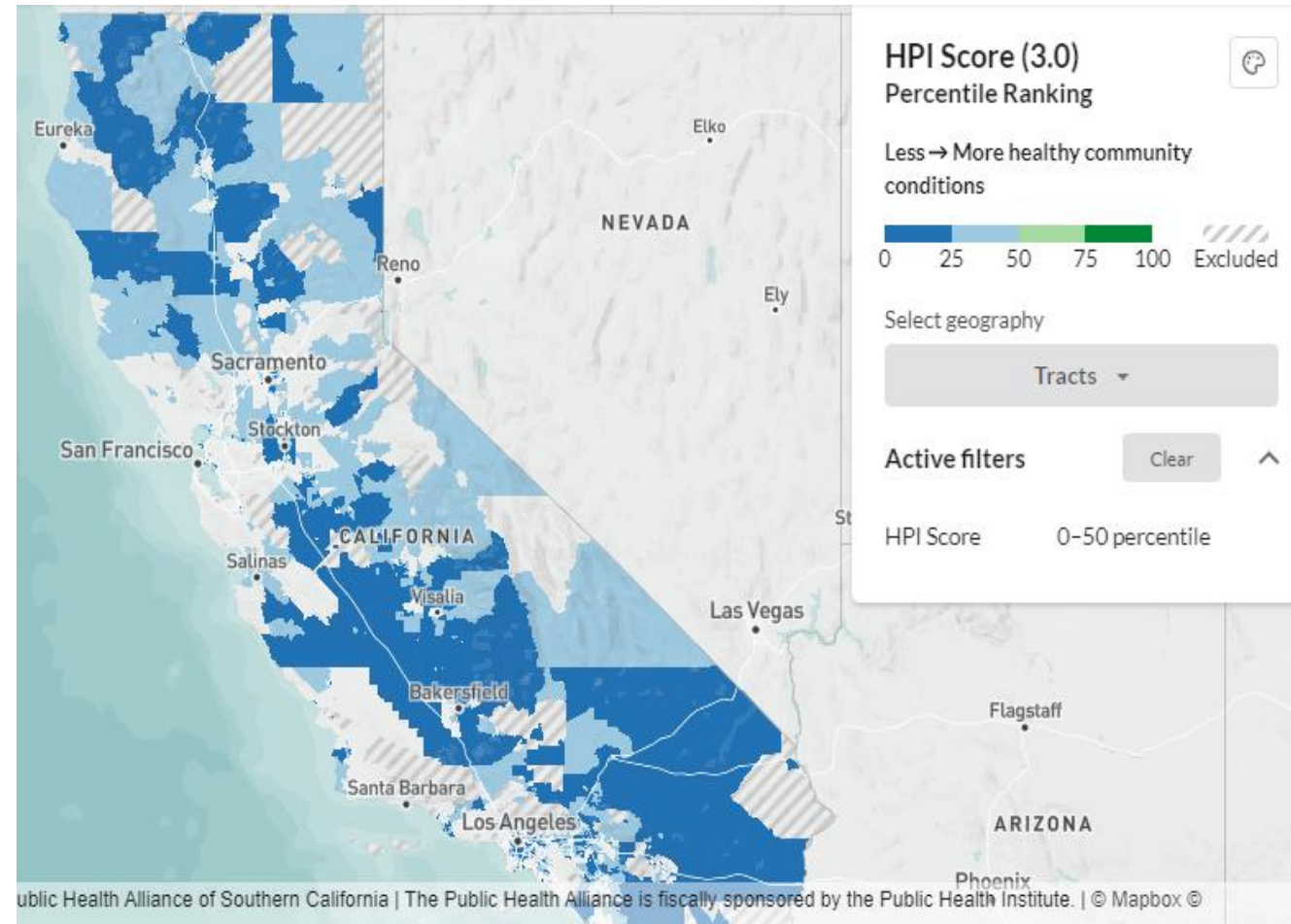


- Learn how pharmacy enrollment in VFC could assist with expansion of the VFC network in key geographic areas of CA
- Leverage pharmacy's expertise in vaccinations during the COVID-19 pandemic, to quickly reach vulnerable Medi-Cal/VFC-eligible children outside the existing provider network
- Identify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

VFC Pharmacy Pilot Selection

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

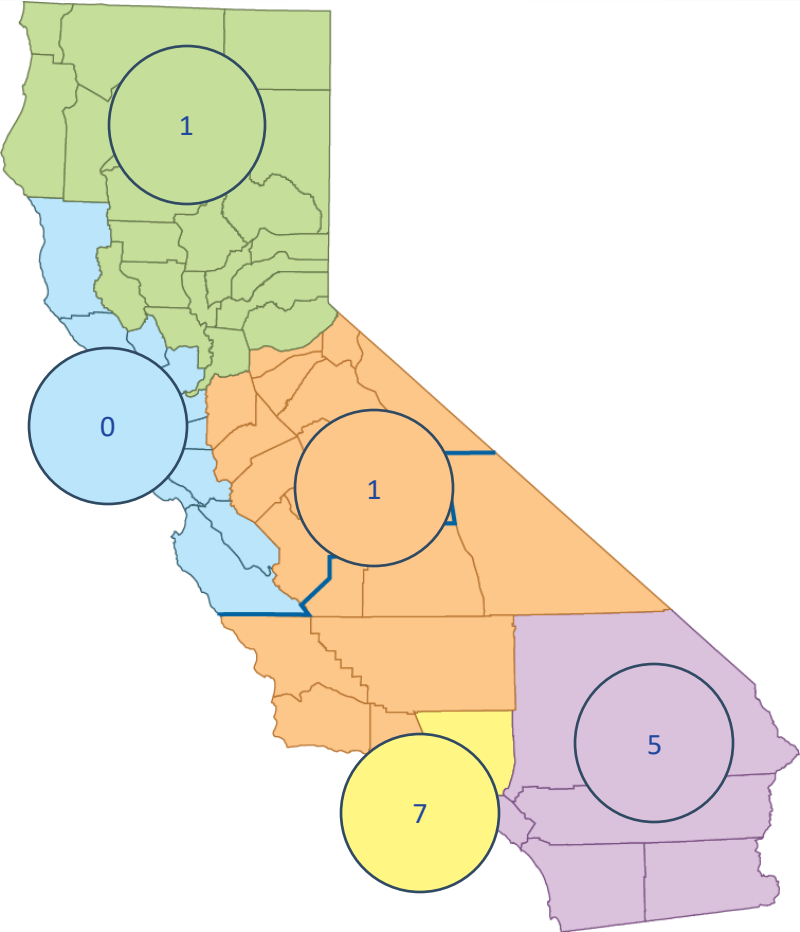
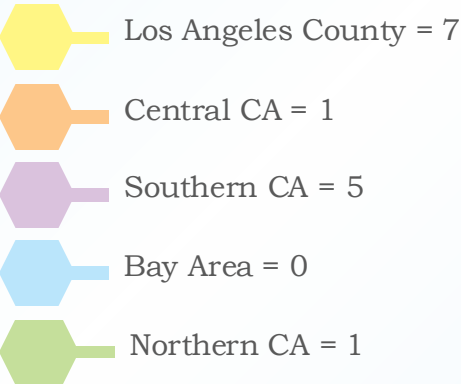
- Located in zip codes that rank in the two lowest quartiles of California's Healthy Places Index [\(HPI 1&2\)](#)
- High COVID-19 vaccine administration rates
- Independent/Community pharmacies



CA VFC Pharmacy Pilot Sites – Current status

123 Invited

14 Enrolled



Participation details

Collectively, sites have ordered a total of **6,145 doses** of VFC vaccines in an **18-month period (January 2023 - September 2024)**

- 21% (1,270 doses) COVID-19
- 69% (4,265 doses) Routine
- 10% (610 doses) Flu

11 sites have completed an initial VFC Pharmacy Pilot Participation survey
- 3 enrolled after survey was initiated

Expansion of Pilot – Status

- Expansion began in Mid-July 2024
 - 47 invited
 - 2 pending enrollment
 - 2 enrolled
 - 11 in progress

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



Overall enrollment experience



Preparations and implementation of VFC in pharmacies



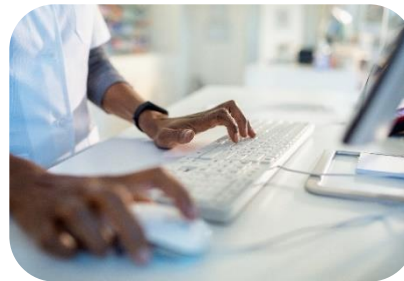
Vaccine Ordering



Vaccine Administration

✓ Required for all participating sites

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



VFC Eligibility Screening and Documentation



Billing and Reimbursement

.222 Program Participation Requirements at a Glance for Pharmacies

Requirement	Summary	Reporting Dates	Resources/Link/URL
Practice Management Plan	Develop a current and complete vaccine management plan (VMP) for vaccine and immunization services that includes practice specific vaccine management guidelines and protocols, names of staff with temporary inventory responsibilities, and information about required VFC services for the practice's VFC.	All pharmacies are required to have a VMP.	Practice Management Plan VFC 2022 Summary Vaccine Eligibility, Medical History, and Immunization Vaccine Eligibility, Medical History, and Immunization
Key Practice Staff	Designate and maintain key practice staff in the practice's profile. Immediately report to the VFC Program changes to practice staff. A change in the Provider or Board or Designee requires a signed Key Practice Staff Change Request Form. There are no fees required for VFC.	All elements are applicable to all pharmacies.	Vaccine Eligibility, Medical History, and Immunization VFC 2022 Summary Vaccine Eligibility, Medical History, and Immunization

Participation Resources & Program Support

Requirements for VFC Pharmacy 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

Vaccine Supply

Claudia Aguiluz, CDPH



Flu Vaccine Supply

- Federal: CDC supply at McKesson allocated to each State
- State: CDPH – VFC Program allocates to VFC Providers based on pre-book requests submitted prior to beginning of the flu season
- Provider: allocation must be drawn down throughout the flu season by ordering through the VFC Program. If more doses are needed beyond allocation, justification will be required

COVID-19 Vaccine Supply

- All 2024 – 2025 mRNA vaccine presentations are now available through the VFC Program.
- Novavax will be available soon!
- Not allocation based, and amounts can be ordered as needed.

Vaccine Ordering

- Monthly orders can now be accommodated for all pharmacies.
- Include all vaccines in one order to prevent delays in shipping.
- Utilize CAIR/EHR administration and inventory reports for accurate reporting on order form.



September 24, 2024

McKesson Shipping Delays

Dear VFC Provider,

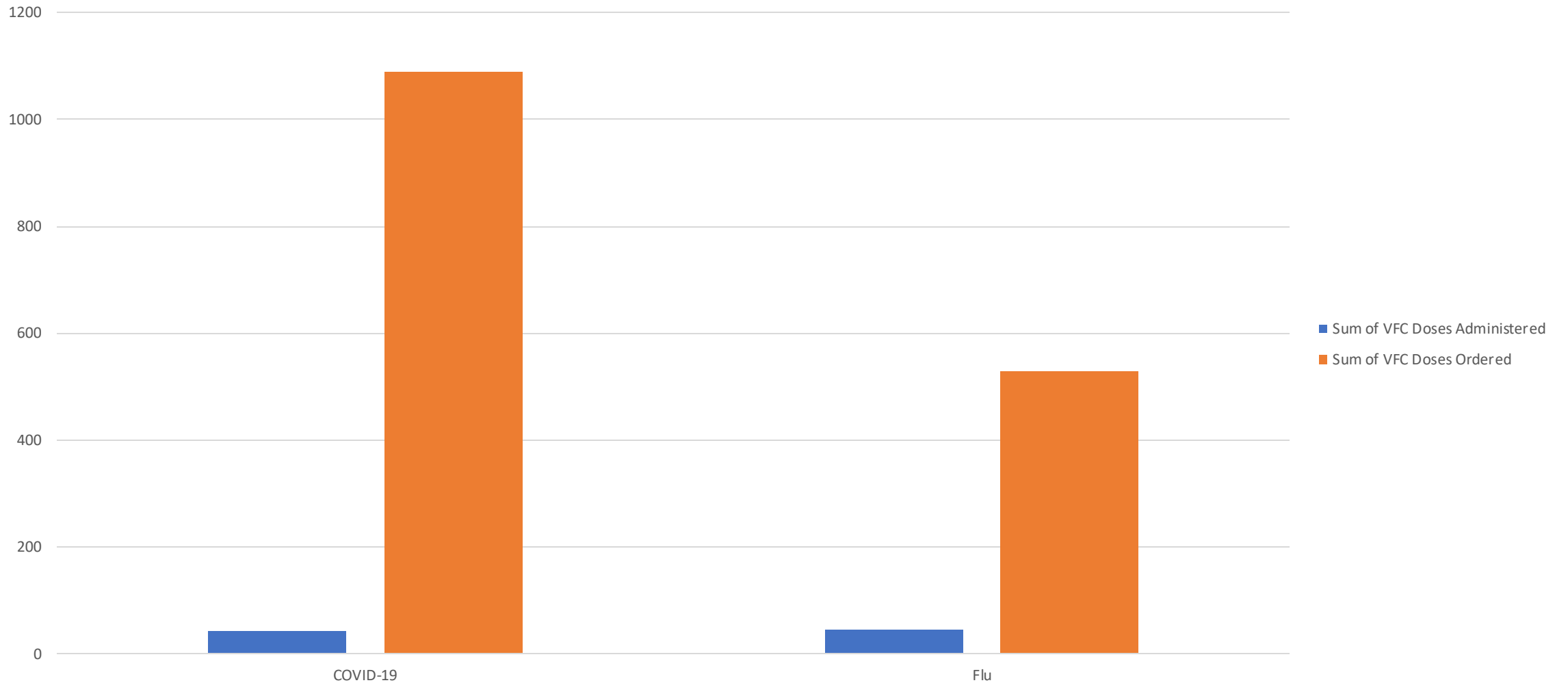
The VFC Program's national vaccine distributor, McKesson Specialty, is currently facing shipping delays for routine vaccine orders because of an unusually high volume of orders in September. Below is the most current status of shipment delays by order type.

Status:

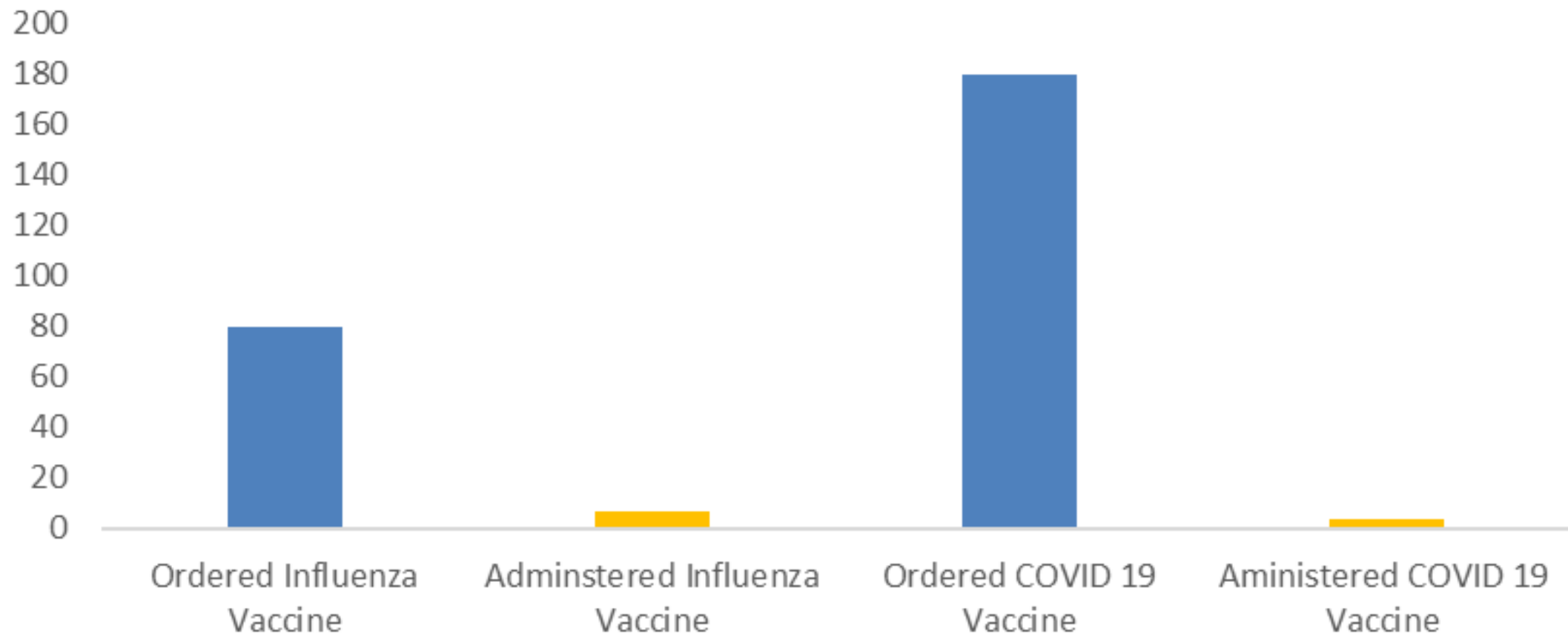
- Flu Orders – Backlog (Estimated return to current – Sept 30th)
- Routine Orders – Backlog (Estimated return to current – Oct. 2nd)
- Frozen COVID orders – Current
- Frozen Varicella containing vaccines – Current (note that while product may ship sooner, Merck has 15 business shipping dates to fulfill orders)

McKesson anticipates all order lines being up to date by October 2nd.

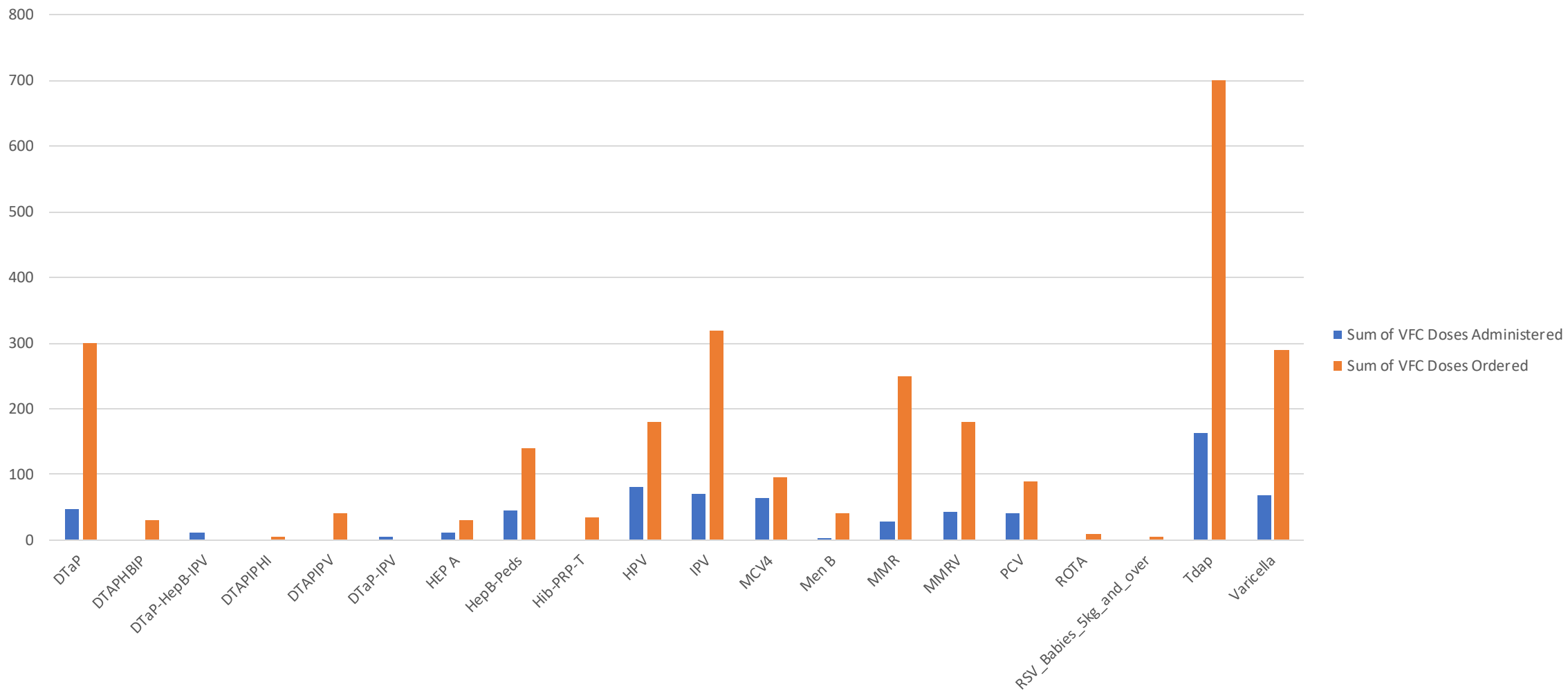
VFC Pharmacy Pilot Doses Administered in CAIR vs. Doses Ordered January 2023 through June 2024



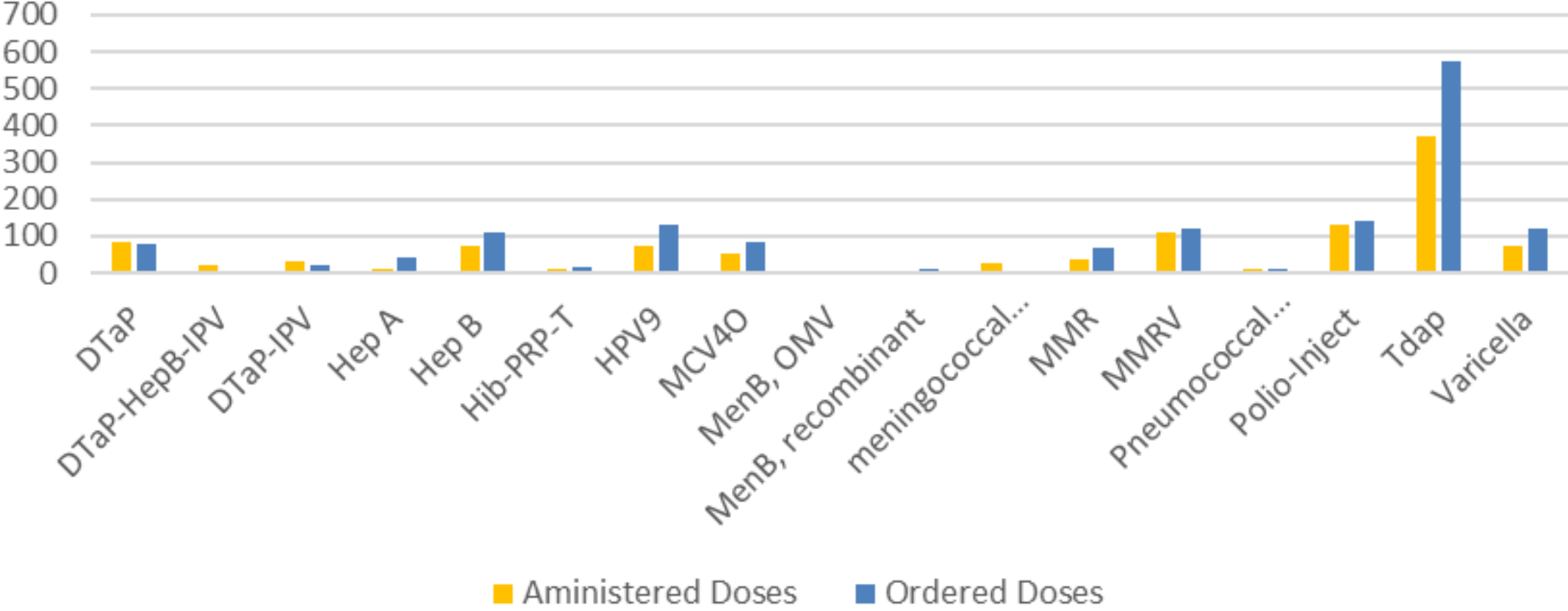
VFC Influenza and COVID 19 Ordered and Administered from 6/10/2024 through 9/20/2024



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



Routine VFC Vaccines Ordered and Administered from 6/10/2024 through 9/20/2024



Provider 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 Billing and Reimbursement

Brenton Louie, CDPH



VFC Program Billing and Reimbursement

- VFC Program provides vaccines at no-cost
- VFC Program does not accept billing claims from or reimburse providers
- VFC Program job aids ([Vaccine Fact Sheets](#))

Billing/Reimbursement and VFC Program

VFC Eligible Patient	Billing/Reimbursement Party
Medi-Cal as primary or secondary coverage	Medi-Cal
American Indian (AI) or Alaska Native (AN)	Patient/parent
Uninsured	Patient/parent

- Patient/parent cannot be charged for the vaccine.
- Vaccine administration fee can be charged to the patient/parent (up to \$26.03 per vaccine dose), but administration cannot be denied if unable to pay.
- See VFC Eligibility Screening & Documentation Requirements ([IMM-1161](#)) for descriptions of VFC-eligibility categories.

Feedback: Sharing Enrolled Pharmacy Information with Providers and the Public

Michele Barkus, CDPH



Feedback: Sharing Enrolled Pharmacy Information with Providers and the Public

- Promotional flyer
- Communications to schools, LHDs
- Survey, 10/03/2024

Pharmacy Name	# of Public Schools within 5 miles	# of Public Schools within 10 miles
Advanced Healthcare Pharmacy	95	288
Anderson Rx	10	30
Arlington Prescription Pharmacy	34	87
Fresh Wellness Pharmacy	37	145
Inland Pharmacy	27	30
Elements Pharmacy	32	179
Komoto Pharmacy	14	21
Pico Care Pharmacy	57	311
Price Care Pharmacy	82	404
South Main Aloha	86	268
The Medicine Shoppe of Artesia	69	260
The Prescription Shop	73	316
Valley Medical Pharmacy	6	6

Medi-Cal Reimbursement of Pharmacies as VFC-Enrolled Providers

Bassant Khalil, DHCS



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

Bassant Khalil, RPh, MBA
Pharmacy Policy Chief

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.

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		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		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 [VFC section](#) of the Medi-Cal provider manual

Pharmacy Reimbursement Details:

Vaccine Administration Fee: COVID-19

	Pharmacy Claims: Effective through ARP (9/30/2024)		Pharmacy Claims: Starting October 1, 2024 (Effective post end of ARP)	
Member Type	Managed Care	FFS	Managed Care	FFS
Reimbursement Amount	\$40	\$40	\$7.65	\$7.65
Type of Claim	Pharmacy Claim to Medi-Cal Rx	Pharmacy Claim to Medi-Cal Rx	Pharmacy Claim to Medi-Cal Rx	Pharmacy Claim to Medi-Cal RX
	Medical Claims: Effective through ARP (9/30/2024)		Medical Claims: Starting October 1, 2024 (Effective post end of ARP)	
Member Type	Managed Care	FFS	Managed Care	FFS
Reimbursement Amount	\$40	\$40	\$7.65	\$7.65
Type of Claim	*Medical Claim to DHCS/CA-MMIS	*Medical Claim to DHCS/CA-MMIS	*Medical Claim to DHCS/CA-MMIS	*Medical Claim to DHCS/CA-MMIS

Resources: Billing details including vaccine CPT codes can be found in the [VFC section](#) of the Medi-Cal provider manual

* Medical Claims to DHCS/CA-MMIS should be submitted using the CMS 1500 Form: Information can be found [here](#).

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

Reimbursement Details:

Professional Dispensing Fee: COVID-19

	Effective through ARP (9/30/2024)		Starting October 1, 2024 (Effective post end of ARP)	
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: All Vaccines

	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 (MCP Immunization Services Requirements)	Medical Claim to DHCS/CA-MMIS * Medical Claims should be submitted using 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 (Excluding COVID-19)

	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

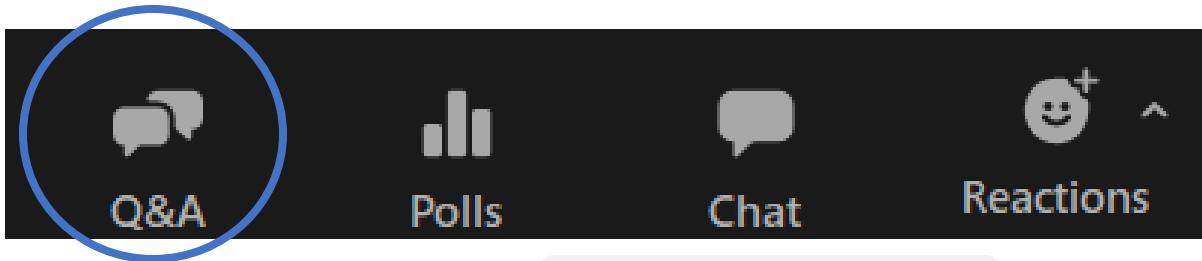
Q&A and Discussion

VFC and DHCS 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"



Questions for Discussion

1. What is working well for you as a participant in the VFC Pharmacy pilot program?
2. In what ways could the VFC Program better support you as a participant in the VFC Pharmacy Pilot Program?
3. Are VFC-eligible patients being referred to you, if so, how?
4. Are vaccine orders and administration in alignment of what you expected?
5. How can we support your billing needs as we coordinate with DHCS? E.g., materials, trainings, webinars?
6. What best practices would you share with a pharmacy that is considering enrollment in the VFC Pharmacy Pilot Program?

Resources

Leslie Amani, CDPH



Resource: VFC Pharmacy Pilot Program on EZIZ



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- Vaccine Management
- Storage Units
- Temperature Monitoring
- Training & Webinars
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- Patient Resources

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Hours:

Mon-Thurs, 9AM-4:30PM

Friday, 9AM-4PM

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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, October 4, 2024

9:00 am – 10:30 am

