



## What is the Florida Vaccines for Children Program?

The Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program was introduced in 1994 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The goal of the program is to raise childhood vaccination rates in the United States without creating a financial burden for providers. Unfortunately, many children are not vaccinated because their parents either do not have health insurance or their health insurance does not cover preventive care services. The VFC Program is designed to help protect all children against vaccine-preventable infectious diseases and is based on the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 (OBRA). Federal legislation guarantees that federally purchased vaccines will be made available in all states to vaccinate eligible children and will be provided to participating providers at no cost. According to a survey of state health departments and Medicaid agencies, more than 60% of infants nationwide are eligible for vaccines through the VFC Program.

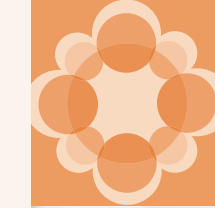


## Who is eligible for vaccination?

Under federal government regulations, children from birth through 18 years of age are eligible to receive free vaccines if they:

- Are enrolled in Medicaid
- Have no health insurance
- Are American Indians or Native Alaskans
- Are covered by a health insurance that does not provide immunizations

Children enrolled in Florida Healthy Kids or in Florida MediKids, which is part of the Florida KidCare Program, are insured and are not eligible to receive VFC Program vaccines.



## Program Benefits & Eligibility



For more detailed information about the VFC Program, please visit the Florida VFC website at <http://www.ImmunizeFlorida.org/VFC>.

If you are currently a participating provider, thank you for reaching out to help protect more children against vaccine-preventable diseases. If you are not yet participating, please visit [www.ImmunizeFlorida.org/vfc/enrollment.htm](http://www.ImmunizeFlorida.org/vfc/enrollment.htm) to enroll online or call (800) 483-2543 to request an enrollment package today.



Are you a registered user of the Florida State Online Tracking System (Florida SHOTS)? Visit [www.flshots.com](http://www.flshots.com) or call (877) 483-7468 for more information.

Do you know pediatric patients who need health insurance? Parents can apply online at [www.floridakidcare.org](http://www.floridakidcare.org) or call (888) 540-5437 for an application.



### Bureau of Immunization

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## Vaccines for Children Protecting All of Florida's Children.

Reducing vaccine-preventable diseases.



the VFC Program needs the support of both public and private healthcare providers. This program helps meet the vaccination needs of children by following the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The vaccines provided through the VFC Program are vaccines against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, varicella, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, *haemophilus influenzae* type b, measles, mumps, rubella, pneumococcal, meningococcal, human papillomavirus, rotavirus, and influenza. As new vaccines or vaccine combinations are approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and recommended by the ACIP, they are added to the program.

## What are the participation guidelines?

Physician participation guidelines are simple. Providers continue to vaccinate eligible children following normal practice guidelines. Providers do not have to accept a child into their practice based solely on VFC eligibility.

Participation guidelines include:

- VFC eligibility screening at each immunization visit.
- Providing vaccines free of charge to VFC-eligible children.
- Practice and document correct vaccine storage and handling.

## What are the benefits of the program?

When you enroll in the program, you can offer your patients comprehensive care because you will be able to:

- Reduce vaccine cost as a barrier to vaccinating eligible children at the right time with the right vaccine.
- Provide eligible patients with necessary vaccines, regardless of their parents' financial status.
- Reduce—and in some cases eliminate—the need to refer children to public clinics for vaccinations and risk loss of continuity of care.



## How do I enroll in the program?

**1** Visit [www.ImmunizeFlorida.org/vfc/enrollment.htm](http://www.ImmunizeFlorida.org/vfc/enrollment.htm) and submit all necessary information online.

- A copy of the completed form is emailed back to you. This copy should be printed, signed, dated, and retained in your records.
- You may call the VFC Program at (800) 483-2543 and ask for an enrollment package.

**2** Annually submit your provider profile form online to help Florida order the necessary amount of vaccine for your office.

- The provider profile is an estimate of the annual number of children vaccinated in your practice or clinic and the proportion likely to qualify for VFC vaccines.
- If your vaccine supply needs change during the year, please submit another profile form as soon as possible.

**3** Once you are enrolled by the state, you can expect your first vaccine delivery within 30 days after ordering.

- You will reorder through your VFC customer service representative.
- Florida requires providers to report vaccine usage quarterly.

## Who can participate in Florida's Vaccines for Children Program?

Any healthcare provider can join the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program. Physicians do not have to be Medicaid providers to participate. However, Medicaid providers need to enroll in the program to receive free vaccines.

Because almost half of the children in the United States receive their vaccinations from private healthcare providers, it is important to increase the number of private healthcare providers participating in this program. To raise vaccination rates in the United States,