



Immunization Updates

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Agenda

- VFC Recruitment
- Vaccine Exchange Recruitment
- Seasonal Respiratory Plan

Vaccines for Children

- Join the Vaccines for Children program!
- VFC is a federally funded program that provides routine pediatric vaccines to providers at no cost to immunize Medicaid eligible or uninsured/underinsured children ages 18 and under
- The administration fee for all Medicaid enrollees will be paid through the fee-for-service program when administered at a VFC-enrolled pharmacy
- Safeway in Capitol Hill is the first VFC enrolled pharmacy
 - Grubbs SE has also enrolled in 2024!

Reimbursement Pathway for VFC Administration

- DC Health Care Finance (DHCF) submitted a Medicaid State Plan Amendment to CMS to allow for Medicaid reimbursement of administration fee to pharmacies for VFC-supplied vaccines
- DHCF Transmittal outlines billing process for pharmacies to receive administration fee
 - Participating pharmacies should bill DHCF directly using the Medicaid/ICP Identification Number. Submit to the Magellan Pharmacy Benefit Manager using the following NCPDP billing information: BIN: 018407; PCN: DCMC018407; and Group ID: DCMEDICAID
- DHCF monitored and coordinated with DC Health: Pharmacy Benefit Manager Weekly Report on Pediatric Vaccines Furnished by Pharmacies
 - Troubleshooting with Pharmacy on Claims Submission re: unknown Medicaid beneficiary ID numbers.

Vaccines for Children

- Please see <https://dchealth.dc.gov/service/vaccines-children-vfc> for more information, including prospective provider resources:
 - [VFC Enrollment Requirements](#)
 - [Provider Enrollment Checklist](#)
 - [VFC Annual Provider Profile Form](#)
- DC VFC [existing provider resources](#) and [DC VFC Provider Manual](#)
- CDC VFC [resources](#) and [operations guide](#)

Vaccine Exchange

What is the Vaccine Exchange?

- The Vaccine Exchange is an online platform that connects District organizations, employers, and schools with vaccine providers that can assist with providing vaccinations to large groups in the community.
- Created in May 2021 during the height of the pandemic to help support community demand for COVID-19 vaccinations, the Vaccine Exchange has expanded to include providers who can administer other immunizations.
 - The program is now offering organizations the capability to request flu and routine pediatric vaccine clinics in addition to COVID-19 vaccine.

How does it work?

1. Community members submit requests for vaccine clinics at request.vaccineexchange.dc.gov
2. Qualified vaccine providers review the requests:
 - What type of vaccine is being requested?
 - How many individuals does the organization expect? Events range from small (10-30 people) to large (100+)
 - What date does the organization want to hold the clinic?
 - Where is the event going to be held?
3. If a provider feels they are a good fit, they can “Accept” a request
 - Once accepted, the request is removed from the general pool
 - Provider then coordinates directly with the requesting organization to finalize logistics/planning for the clinic.
4. After clinic, provider reports key data back to DC Health, including but not limited to:
 - Number of patients served, and patient Ward of origin
 - Number/type of vaccines administered

Core Principles

- Safety – Vaccines must be stored, handled, transported and administered in accordance with DC Health and CDC guidelines
 - Immunizers must be authorized to administer vaccine in the District of Columbia
 - Vaccine administrations must be reported electronically to DOCIIS within 24 hours
- Equity – Vaccines are provided at no-cost to patients attending the clinics
 - Providers may request health insurance information and bill insurance for the costs of vaccine administration and COVID/influenza vaccine, but vaccination must be provided to all persons requesting it, regardless of health insurance coverage.
 - There shall be no balance billing for any remaining balance whether insured or uninsured.
- Customer Service and Communication
 - Providers engaging with the community through this platform must be courteous, professional and communicative

Impact

- Since its inception, the Vaccine Exchange has received over 500 event requests from the community, and over 200 events have been held.
- Since the fall of 2022, DC Health has coordinated with education partners to encourage District schools to submit requests for pediatric vaccine clinics
 - Schools were targeted based on highest rates of vaccine non-compliance in their student body
 - Many schools request clinics on their own

Growth Opportunities / How can you help?

- To continue scaling the platform up and reach more members of our community, we need the support of our city's amazing medical providers.
- If your organization is equipped to provide mobile vaccinations to the District community (be it small or large events) – or if you are not yet equipped, but are interested in discussing further – please reach out!

Email: vaccineexchange@dc.gov

Respiratory Season Strategy

Objectives and Focus Populations

- Objectives
 - Increase equitable vaccination access and coverage for vaccine-preventable respiratory illnesses
 - Increase awareness of public health information related to respiratory illnesses
 - Prevent illness and reduce premature deaths from respiratory illnesses in the District
 - Reduce the burden on the healthcare system from respiratory illnesses throughout the District
- Focus Populations
 - COVID-19: Age 65 and older, people with chronic medical conditions, weakened immune systems
 - Influenza: Age 65 and older, children under age 5 years, people with chronic medical conditions, pregnant people
 - RSV: Infants up to 12 months, Adults over 60 years, adults with chronic medical conditions, weakened immune systems

Key Metrics for Fall/Winter 2024-2025

- Influenza, COVID-19 and RSV-associated hospitalizations
- Proportion deaths from Influenza, COVID-19 and RSV
- **COVID-19 and Influenza vaccination coverage**
 - By focus population, statistical neighborhood, and social/structural indicators, when feasible
- DC hospital capacity

What are your immunization plans this respiratory season?

- Have you procured and are administering the updated a) COVID-19 vaccine, b) influenza vaccine, c) RSV immunization/vaccine?
- What insurances do you accept?
- Do you accept walk-in's?
- Would you be ok with being listed on a DC Health public-facing access list?
- Please complete [this survey](#) to let us know about your inventory and plans.

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For more information on the District's COVID-19 response, visit coronavirus.dc.gov