

VACCINES FOR CHILDREN PROGRAM NEWS BULLETIN

Chicago Department of Public Health – Immunization Program

Issue Number 15: July 2, 2019

The news bulletin serves to keep you aware of emerging VFC program, vaccine and vaccine-preventable disease updates.

In This Issue:

- Changes to the Children’s Health Insurance Program Vaccine Distribution

Stay informed on this important change by registering for a 2-part webinar series:

- July 11th at 12 pm
VFC process and procedures
- July 18th at 12 pm
Medicaid and CHIP billing processes

You can find the registration links on the attached IDPH memo!

Changes to the Children’s Health Insurance Program Vaccine Distribution

Yesterday, July 1st, 2019, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) announced an upcoming change to the purchasing and distribution of vaccine for children with Children’s Health Insurance Plan (CHIP) coverage. CHIP vaccine will be purchased by the state and distributed through existing Vaccine for Children program mechanisms. Please read the attached IDPH memo and accompanying guidance document for more information. We will provide additional guidance and alert you to upcoming timelines throughout this transition.

Steps to take now:

- 1) **Complete this [survey](#) by July 12th** indicating whether or not you would like to receive CHIP vaccine once the new distribution method is in place and to update your CHIP patient population numbers. Your updated numbers will reflect either the children with CHIP coverage who received vaccines at your clinic during the most recent 12 months **OR** the CHIP population you plan on serving within a 12 month period if you have not been vaccinating your CHIP covered patients.
- 2) **Work with your electronic medical record/electronic health record vendor to ensure VFC and CHIP shot records are being transmitted properly to I-CARE.** See the attached IDPH guidance document pg. 5 for additional details.
- 3) **Use vaccine your clinic privately purchased for your CHIP population as soon possible.** The Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) will reimburse providers for vaccine through August 1st and will continue to assess their ability to reimburse providers for private vaccine used for CHIP covered patients after August 1, 2019. We will keep you informed of any changes to this guidance.

We understand this transition will necessitate changes to clinic processes. Our main goal is to ensure all children in Chicago are vaccinated. We will work with you to facilitate a smooth transition and ensure you receive vaccine inventory for the populations you serve. If you have concerns or questions please email chicagovfc@cityofchicago.org.