

## VACCINES FOR CHILDREN PROGRAM NEWS BULLETIN

Chicago Department of Public Health – Immunization Program

Issue Number 6: March 25, 2020

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

### In This Issue:

- Field Visit Postponement
- Office Closure Guidance
- Regional Meetings in June
- Storage & Handling
- Re-Enrollment

### Stay Up To Date on COVID-19

- Bookmark the [COVID-19 Chicago HAN page](#) for access to timely updates.
- Sign up for the [COVID-19 newsletter](#).

## CHICAGO VFC STAFF POSTPONING IN-PERSON VISITS

Until further notice, the Chicago staff will not be conducting in-person VFC visits or IQIP (formerly “AFIX”) visits to your practice.

If you have any questions for a Chicago VFC PHA (*Michelle, Thursa, Cheearease, Gloria, Moji, Elissa, or Ivan*), we encourage you to reach out via email:

[ChicagoVFC@CityofChicago.org](mailto:ChicagoVFC@CityofChicago.org)

### Please also alert Chicago VFC if:

- Your hours of operation change in any way in response to the COVID-19 response, including if your clinic is closing down operation (see below)
- You need immediate help with storage and handling questions.

## VFC Provider Office Closures

If your office decides to close for more than a few days, we suggest the following actions to best ensure the safety of your vaccines.

1. **Download your Digital Data Loggers (DDL’s) before you leave.** After being downloaded, your DDL’s storage capacity is greater than two months. Downloading them ahead of time will allow you to monitor any temperature excursions when you return from the closure. If there is an excursion when your clinic returns to work, email the DDL files from that excursion to [chicagovfc@cityofchicago.org](mailto:chicagovfc@cityofchicago.org). If there is no excursion, then you are good to vaccinate upon returning.
2. **Have staff check in with engineers or building managers** and remind them that vaccines are being stored in the clinic and that **power must not be cut off at any time**. Also put a sign on the outside of your office that states the same.
3. **Please consult VFC before making the decision to transfer or relocate vaccine to other clinics.** In almost all situations where your units are functioning properly, we will elect to leave your vaccine at your clinic for short office closures.

You can reach out to us at [chicagovfc@cityofchicago.org](mailto:chicagovfc@cityofchicago.org) if you have any questions on this or any other VFC related manner.

*Thank you for your efforts during this challenging time.  
Now more than ever we appreciate it!*

## Regional Meeting Webinars Postponed Until June 2020



Chicago VFC understands that COVID-19 has impacted your practices' workloads significantly. We respect that your time is limited and will be devoted to patient care for the foreseeable future.

**In light of this, the 2020 VFC Regional Meeting webinars will be held in early- to mid-June. Dates and details will be distributed closer to this time.**

Thank you to those who had already registered. We apologize for once again adjusting these plans, but hope that this allows your practice to devote time where you need it. We appreciate your flexibility.

### Chicago VFC Storage and Handling Modules

For questions on your clinic's vaccine storage and handling protocols, you're welcome to complete the Chicago VFC [Online Storage & Handling Training Exercise](#).

- The VFC coordinator, back-up coordinator, and/or staff that are new to VFC should complete the training and submit copies of completed certificates to: [Felicia.Fredricks@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Felicia.Fredricks@cityofchicago.org).

Guidelines for navigating how to create an account and log into a course are available on the [Chicago VFC HAN page](#) under "Training."

### VFC Re-Enrollment

**Due 4/15/20**



If you haven't already, the time is now to re-enroll in the VFC Program. **Re-enrollment is open until 4/15/20 in I-CARE.**

The work your clinic does every day is part of a nation-wide effort to protect millions of children against vaccine-preventable diseases. Thank you for all you do to make Chicago a strong network of over 400 VFC providers. **Please re-enroll ASAP!**

#### GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

**Re-enrollment has 2 parts:**

- 1) In I-CARE, complete the Enrollment Form.
- 2) Print the Provider Agreement and have the Medical Director review and sign it. Then return it to the Chicago VFC Program via email ([chicagovfc@cityofchicago.org](mailto:chicagovfc@cityofchicago.org)) or fax (312-746-6220).

*The Provider Agreement is the only document that must be printed and submitted by email ([chicagovfc@cityofchicago.org](mailto:chicagovfc@cityofchicago.org)) or fax to 312/746-6220. All additional information is captured directly in I-CARE.*

**Mark Your  
Calendars!**

## National Infant Immunization Week 2020

**NIIW is fast  
approaching,  
and will be held  
4/25/20-5/2/20.**

CDPH will distribute resources to help your practice to highlight the importance of protecting infants from vaccine-preventable diseases. Keep an eye out!

## Contact Us

### Primary Contact Method

[ChicagoVFC@cityofchicago.org](mailto:ChicagoVFC@cityofchicago.org)

Please use this email for all general VFC inquiries and issues including those related to vaccine orders and temperature excursions.

### Program Questions

Felicia Fredricks,  
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Program Manager  
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### Clinical Questions

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Medical Director  
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