

## VACCINES FOR CHILDREN PROGRAM NEWS BULLETIN

Chicago Department of Public Health – Immunization Program

Issue Number 7: April 10, 2020

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

### In This Issue:

- Maintaining pediatric vaccinations
- National Infant Immunization Week 4/25/20-5/2/20
- New VIS's Available
- VFC Re-Enrollment due **NEXT WEDS**
- Regional Meeting webinars postponed until June

## Mark Your Calendars!

**National Infant Immunization Week 2020**  
**April 25<sup>th</sup>–May 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Celebrate digitally this year!

[Check out CDC's NIIW resources here!](#)

## MAINTAINING ROUTINE PEDIATRIC VACCINATIONS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Although some routine healthcare visits are being postponed or transitioned to telemedicine formats, it is important that infant and childhood vaccinations stay on schedule as often as possible.

Fortunately, the CDC, the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) have compiled resources and tips to help your practice keep vaccinating patients on time. This is essential to protect Chicago's children from vaccine-preventable diseases.



***Please Note: If a practice can only provide limited well-child visits, healthcare providers are encouraged to prioritize newborn care and vaccination of infants and young children (through 24 months of age) when possible.***

Some other tips include:

- **Separating visits throughout the day.** For example, your clinic could schedule well visits in the morning and sick visits in the afternoon.
- **Separating patients by visit type in waiting rooms.** Consider reserving a specific area of your clinic for ill patients to create space between ill and well patients.

To review the full resources available and choose techniques that will work best for your specific clinic, please click on the links below:

- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)
- [American Academy of Family Physicians \(AAFP\)](#)
- [American Academy of Pediatrics \(AAP\)](#)

### **A Note on Adult Immunizations**

In the face of community transmission of COVID-19, the CDC recommends that adult immunizations be postponed except in the following cases:

- "An in-person visit must be scheduled for some other purpose and the clinical preventive service can be delivered during that visit with no additional risk; or
- An individual patient and their clinician believe that there is a compelling need to receive the service based on an assessment that the potential benefit outweighs the risk of exposure to the virus that causes COVID-19."

Please see the guidance [here](#).

## NEW VACCINE INFORMATION STATEMENTS

Please update your practices' VIS's for the following vaccines:

- DTap
- Td
- Tdap
- Yellow fever

See the CDC links for these VIS's [here](#).



Your patients' health is  
Up to you...  
Don't forget  
**Shots against flu!**

It's not too late – please continue to vaccinate your patients against flu. Contact Chicago VFC if you need more flu vaccine.

## VFC RE-ENROLLMENT

**DUE 4/15/20 – NEXT WEDNESDAY!**

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 fulfilling this mission.

### *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 or fax. All additional information is captured directly in I-CARE.*

**Please re-enroll ASAP!**

## REGIONAL MEETING WEBINARS POSTPONED

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

**The 2020 VFC Regional Meeting webinars will therefore be held in early- to mid-June.**

Dates, details, and registration instructions will be distributed closer to this time. We appreciate your flexibility.



### Contact Us

**Forms, Policies, and  
Program Updates**

[www.ChicagoHAN.org/  
VFC](http://www.ChicagoHAN.org/VFC)

### 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

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