

VACCINES FOR CHILDREN PROGRAM NEWS BULLETIN

Chicago Department of Public Health – Immunization Program

Issue Number 5: March 20, 2020

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

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- CDPH Tips for Outpatient Facilities
- Sign up for CDPH's COVID-19 newsletter
- Postponing VFC Regional Meetings until June

Stay Up-To-Date on the Latest Chicago Coronavirus News

The Chicago Department of Public Health is launching a COVID-19 newsletter that will release timely updates on press releases, guidance, and other important information for preparing and responding.

Sign up [here](#).

CDPH TIPS

FOR OUTPATIENT FACILITIES DURING COVID-19 COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION

Please read the attached guidance on testing and home isolation, along with ways to keep your staff and patients safe (also available on the [Chicago Health Alert Network COVID-19 page](#)).

CDPH encourages clinics to **continue vaccination visits as able**, but acknowledges that not all clinics will have the telehealth capacity or environmental controls available to protect staff and other patients.

If this is the case for your clinic, **visits should be limited to essential visits** (like newborn/early infant/OB check ups) as referenced in the tips document. **Patients should be spaced** to prevent waiting room crowding and to limit staff exposure.

Please revisit your clinic's **vaccine storage and handling protocols** to ensure that your VFC, CHIP, and private vaccine stocks are all being stored correctly in this unprecedented and unpredictable time.

In the meantime, **please 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**. Guidelines for navigating how to create an account and log into a course are attached.



Please also **bookmark the COVID-19 Chicago HAN page** for easy access to timely and relevant updates:

<https://www.chicagohan.org/covid-19>

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.