

# The VFC Program toolkit

*A guide designed to help you better understand the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Vaccines for Children program and how it can help you, your patients and our communities.*



 **Priority Health**<sup>™</sup>

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# The Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program can help eliminate barriers to care for your patients, our members.

## About the program

### What's the VFC program?

The [VFC Program](#) is offered through the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and provides you with [all routine vaccines](#), recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), for your Medicaid eligible patients ages 0-18 years. This is a federally funded program

### Why's the VFC program important?

This program helps prioritize preventive care for Medicaid-eligible patients, reduce disparities, and safeguard communities from preventable diseases. The VFC program works to ensure no child misses out on essential vaccinations due to barriers to care.

### How does the VFC program help you in your practice?

Benefits to participating in the VFC program include:

- **Cost** – Through the VFC program, you'll be provided, and can administer, vaccines recommended by the ACIP at no cost to you, while still receiving reimbursement for administration costs. This can help improve vaccination rates and increase your performance in our [PCP Incentive program \(PIP\)](#).
- **Convenience for your patients** – Having vaccines available in your clinic means your patients don't have to go elsewhere for preventive care. They can receive all necessary vaccinations directly in your office, removing barriers to care and helping close care gaps for your patients, our members.

### Who's eligible to participate in the VFC program?

**For patients** – A child is [eligible for the VFC Program](#) if they are younger than 19 years of age and are one of the following:

- Uninsured
- Medicaid-eligible or Medicaid-enrolled
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Underinsured

**For providers** – Any healthcare provider, including pharmacists and pharmacies, authorized by their state law granting them the authority to administer vaccines by prescription, vaccine protocol, or prescribing authority can be a VFC program provider.

# Becoming a VFC provider

For Michigan providers, enrolling in the VFC program is completed through the Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR). Providers who want to participate in the VFC program should notify their [local health department](#) and refer to the [MDHHS VFC Provider Manual](#) for details.

## VFC enrollment requirements

Before becoming a VFC provider, you must complete the initial enrollment visit and trainings. **All enrollment expectations must be fulfilled within 3 months of activation/PIN assignment.** This includes:

- The enrollment site visit
- 30 days of documented vaccine temperature monitoring
- Any follow-up requirement not met at the time of the visit. Note: If you're unable to complete requirements within 3 months, the enrollment process will start over.

## Re-enrolling in the VFC program

**All VFC providers must re-enroll into the program annually.** The window for re-enrollment opens each January and must be completed by the due date indicated by your local health department. MDHHS provides final review and will suspend providers not re-enrolled by April 1.

**Note:** All VFC requirements are dictated by the state of Michigan and MDHHS. Priority Health isn't responsible for changes made to the VFC program.



## A snapshot of enrollment

### To enroll in the VFC Program:

- Contact your [state/local/territory VFC Program coordinator](#) to request enrollment
- Complete and return the state provider enrollment forms
- Once you've completed and returned your enrollment forms, prepare for a site visit detailing the program's administrative requirements and proper storage and handling of vaccines



# Interested in learning more?

Visit the MDHHS [VFC resource page](#) for information on:

- How to order vaccines
- Preparing for a [site visit](#)
- Preparing for [enrollment](#)
- Vaccine storage

## Additional resources

### [The Bright Futures initiative](#)

Bright Futures, led by the American Academy of Pediatrics, is a national health initiative that offers evidence-based guidance for preventive care and health supervision. This content can be integrated into various public health programs, including home visiting, child care, and school-based clinics.

### [From the CDC](#)

- [Vaccines Provided by the VFC Program: Vaccines For Children \(VFC\) Program Information for Providers | CDC](#)
- [Vaccine Labels: Vaccine Labels: Storage and Beyond-Use Date Tracking \(cdc.gov\)](#)
- [Birth-18 Years Immunization Schedule – Healthcare Providers | CDC](#)
- [Current Vaccine Shortages & Delays](#)

