



Vaccines for Children Program Updates

Important Information

Holiday Shipment Blackout Dates

Below is the holiday shipment schedule for Thanksgiving.

- No vaccine deliveries will occur on Wednesday, Nov. 20 through Friday, Nov. 24.
- Deliveries resume Monday, Nov. 27.

Ensuring Correct Dosing of Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine (2023-2024 Formula) to Individuals 6 months through 11 years (0.25mL)

FDA released [important information](#) to ensure correct administration of the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine (2023-2024 Formula) for individuals 6 months through 11 years.

The announcement advises that providers who administer the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine (2023-2024 Formula) to individuals ages 6 months through 11 years should ensure that the correct volume of the vaccine (0.25 mL) is withdrawn from the vial and administered to the recipient. Providers should discard the vial and excess volume after extracting a single 0.25mL dose. Do not use excess volume to administer an additional dose. Additionally, never combine partial doses from multiple vials to make one dose for a patient.

FDA shared this information after learning some healthcare providers may not recognize that the single dose vial of Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine (2023-2024 Formula) contains more than 0.25 ml of the vaccine and may be withdrawing the entire contents of the vial to administer to an individual. FDA has not identified any safety risks associated with administration of the higher dose in individuals 6 months

through 11 years of age. At this time, no serious adverse events related to this issue have been identified.

For additional information, see the [FDA announcement](#), updated [Moderna fact sheet](#), and the vaccine administration resources listed at the end of this update.

VFC/AVP Flu Vaccine Pre-Book 2024-2025 is OPEN.

In preparation for the 2024-2025 Influenza Season please find the “2024-2025 Flu Pre-book” survey link below. The purpose of this survey is to aid in estimating influenza vaccine needs for VFC-eligible patients, as well as eligible adults. We will use this information to determine how much influenza vaccine to order from the CDC. In addition to assuring a sufficient vaccine supply, we also want to minimize wastage. Remember, providers cannot administer federal or state-funded influenza vaccine to non-eligible children or adult. Thus, it is critical for us to obtain the best possible estimates of need. The survey must be completed by January 15, 2024. If you have questions/concern, please contact the VFC Program at (800) 848-3868."

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Flu2024-2025>

VFC Annual Recertification

Annual VFC recertification for 2023 will be done online through GRITS. GRITS data will be used to pre-populate the information on the VFC Provider Agreement and the VFC Provider profile.

Recertification is due by December 20, 2023.

- 30-day email reminder will be sent November 20, 2023.
- 15-day email reminder will be sent December 5, 2023.

If you will not be able to complete recertification by the due by date, please let the VFC Program know as soon as possible.

The primary and backup VFC vaccine coordinators are required to complete the following webinar trainings provided by the CDC annually:

- You Call the Shots module on Vaccines for Children
- You Call the Shots module on Vaccine Storage and Handling

To find these trainings, please

visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/ed/youcalltheshots.html>.

When Immunization Regional Consultants conduct VFC Compliance site visits, they will ask to see the following documents as part of the VFC recertification process:

- Completed You Call the Shot Training certificates.
- Current Vaccine Emergency Plans
- Thermometer Calibration certificates

Vaccine Updates

Beyfortus™ RSV Monoclonal Antibody (Sanofi and AstraZeneca)

On August 3, 2023, CDC recommended a new immunization, Beyfortus™, a long-acting monoclonal antibody product to help protect all infants under 8 months and some older babies at increased risk of severe illness caused by respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).

Beyfortus™ is available for ordering through the GRITS System. The ordering cap has been increased from 20 to 50 doses per product.

Changing Vaccine Preferences in GRITS

- Log in to GRITS.
- Click on the Manage Inventory menu option in the blue panel to the left.
- Click on the Show Inventory button.
- Click on the Count Inventory button.
- Click on the Set Preferences button.
- Change your vaccine preference from previous vaccine preference to new vaccine preference then click save.

VFC supplied Novavax COVID-19 vaccine now available.

On October 3, 2023, the Food and Drug Administration amended the emergency use authorization (EUA) of Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine, Adjuvanted to include the 2023-2024 formula. The Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine, Adjuvanted, a monovalent vaccine, has been updated to include the spike protein from the SARS-CoV-2 Omicron variant lineage XBB.1.5 (2023-2024 formula). The Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine, Adjuvanted (Original monovalent) is no longer authorized for use in the United States.

VFC supplied Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine, Adjuvanted (2023-2024 Formula) is available for VFC eligible individuals 12 – 18 years of age.

GRITS 2.0

Please see the below email sent by communications@dph.ga.gov on Nov. 6th, 2023





Dear Immunization Partner:

The Georgia Department of Public Health recently announced the implementation of a new Immunization Information System for the State of Georgia; GRITS 2.0. This transition will require all existing systems and applications connected to our legacy system to establish a new connection to GRITS 2.0. We are working closely with the interoperability experts at STCHealth to ensure a swift and efficient transition, but we can't do it alone. **We need your help to ensure that all connections are established with GRITS 2.0 prior to the GO LIVE date expected to be in Quarter 2 of 2024.**

Below are a few items to note as we work through the transition to GRITS 2.0.

- Reporting to GRITS by "any person who administers a vaccine or vaccines licensed for use by the United States Food and Drug Administration to a person" per O.C.G.A. § 31-12-3.1 and House Bill 1526 remains in effect regardless of this transition.
- All EMR/EHRs sending data electronically must be at least 2014 ONC Certified.
- GRITS 2.0 supports HL7 Version 2.5.1 as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
- If your EMR/EHR is unable to meet the requirements for electronic data exchange, reporting via Flat File will be available.

Providers and EMR/EHR vendors are HIGHLY encouraged to begin reviewing the [IIS Health Level \(HL7\) Implementation Guides](#) published by the CDC.

We will be hosting an Interoperability Kickoff for GRITS 2.0 early in 2024. To receive participation information and to continue to receive important information about the transition to GRITS 2.0, please complete the form below as soon as possible.

[Interoperability Readiness Form](#)

To submit questions, comments, or concerns please use the GRITS 2.0 Inquiries Form below.

[GRITS 2.0 Inquires Form](#)

Change is brought about because ordinary people do extraordinary things. In recent years, we have all risen to the occasion, teamed up, and overcome challenges and personal struggles. Every one of you has served your communities well, and we are committed to serving you by delivering the 2nd generation of GRITS in a way you deserve.

We thank you for your patience and consideration and look forward to sharing more information as we embark on this exciting journey. Thank you.

Georgia Immunizations Program
GRITS2.0Info@dph.ga.gov



