

Vaccines For Children Program Newsletter

Monthly Newsletter

October 31, 2025

Vaccine Shipment Holiday Order Hold

No Orders Will Be Delivered Monday, November 24 through Friday, November 28 due to the holiday blackout period. Orders approved in GRITS after November 17 will not ship until Monday, December 1.

All providers should plan to submit vaccine orders prior to Monday, November 17th.

Providers should also consider the December 2025 Holiday Blackout period. Orders placed in GRITS after Monday, December 15 will not ship until Monday, January 5.

VFC 2026-2027 Influenza Flu Prebook

In preparation for the 2026-2027 Influenza Season, our office will open the 2026-2027 Influenza Vaccine Pre-Book survey on November 18, 2025.

This survey will remain open until January 12, 2026, at 11:59 pm. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the pre-book form, please contact [Regina Council](#) for assistance.

VFC Annual Recertification

Annual VFC recertification for 2025 will open online through GRITS on Monday, November 10. GRITS data will be used to pre-populate the information on the VFC Provider Agreement and the VFC Provider profile.

Recertification is due on Tuesday, December 9, 2025.

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

The primary and backup VFC vaccine coordinators are required to complete the following web-based 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](#)

All other staff must be trained on the core program policies, proper vaccine storage and handling, ordering, and eligibility screening, and training completion must be documented annually or as new information is released.

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

VFC Eligibility Criteria for Patients

As a reminder, VFC-eligible children must be 18 years old or younger and meet the definition of at least one of the following criteria:

Table: VFC Eligibility Criteria for Patients

VFC Eligibility Criteria	Definition
American Indian or Alaska Native (AI/AN)	<p>This population is defined by the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1603) (AI/AN children are VFC-eligible under any circumstance).</p> <p>When an AI/AN child also fits a second VFC eligibility category, the provider should always choose the category that will cost less for the family</p>
Medicaid-eligible	Children who are eligible for the Medicaid program (For the purposes of the VFC program, the terms “Medicaid-eligible” and “Medicaid-enrolled” are used interchangeably)
Uninsured	Children not covered by any health insurance plan
Underinsured	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Children who have health insurance, but coverage does not include any vaccines 2. Children who have health insurance, but coverage does not include all vaccines recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) 3. Children who have health insurance, but there is a fixed dollar limit or cap for vaccines

1. Children who have health insurance, but insurance does not provide first dollar coverage for vaccines

Table: Quick View of VFC Eligibility and Insurance Situations

Child's Insurance Status	VFC-Eligible?	VFC Eligibility Category
Enrolled in Medicaid	Yes	Medicaid
Has private health insurance plan with Medicaid as secondary insurance	Yes	Medicaid
Has health insurance covering all vaccines but either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not include first dollar coverage • Has not yet met plan's deductible or • Has not paid for other services received at visit 	Yes	Underinsured This applies even with the primary insurer will deny reimbursement for the cost of vaccines and its administration because the family has not met the plans deductible.
Has health insurance covering all vaccines and has Medicaid as secondary insurance, but: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has not yet met plan's deductible or • Paid for other services received at visit 	Yes	Medicaid
Has health insurance covering all vaccines, but the plan has a fixed dollar limit or cap on amount that it will cover	Yes	1. Insured until the family meets the plans fixed dollar limit 2. Underinsured after the family reaches the plan's fixed dollar limit
Has an insurance plan that does not cover all ACIP-recommended vaccines	Yes	Underinsured

Has no health insurance coverage	Yes	Uninsured
Is AI/AN and has private health insurance that covers all vaccinations	Yes	AI/AN However, providers should choose the eligibility category most cost-effective for the child and family.
Has Medicaid and is AI/AN	Yes	Medicaid or AI/AN. Provider should use Medicaid for the administration fee because this provides the least out-of-pocket expense

McKesson Shipments- Returning Your Cooler

RETURN YOUR COOLER

PLEASE
RETURN COOLER
DO NOT
DISPOSE



Step 1 – Open shipper and remove the top KoolIt PCM gel pack(s).



Step 2 – Remove the vaccine from the inner corrugated box.



Step 3 – Ensure the inner corrugated box is back in the EcoFlex shipping system. **IMPORTANT** – this will help prevent damage during return.



Step 4 – Place the top KoolIt PCM gel pack(s) back on top. **IMPORTANT** – this will help prevent damage during return.



Step 5 – Fold in the original outer flaps. Fold in the remaining flaps with return shipping label exposed. Tape seam.



Step 6 – Give the cooler to your regular UPS delivery person for return. If you do not have regular service, call 1-800-FRICK-UPS to schedule a pickup from your location.

! The return shipping label can be found on the inside flap of your EcoFlex box. For more information, contact info@coldchaintech.com

Got questions? Please contact VFC dph-gavfc@dph.ga.gov