



Birthing hospitals, newborn nurseries, and Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICUs) play a critical role in ensuring newborns are protected against respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). Children who are publicly insured and uninsured (versus privately insured) have higher odds of missing well-child visits. Administering RSV vaccination in the birthing hospital before discharge is a critical way of ensuring protection against RSV infection for uninsured or underinsured infants who may be less likely to have a well-child visit within the first week of life, especially for newborns who have had prolonged hospitalizations related to prematurity or other causes.

Birthing hospitals may enroll in the Vaccine for Children (VFC) Program as a Specialty Provider offering only nirsevimab and hepatitis B vaccination birth dose for eligible infants. Hospitals may also participate in the dose replacement program. The replacement program hospitals supply the initial stock of nirsevimab and hepatitis B for their patient population and, as doses are used for VFC-eligible children, those doses are replaced by the VFC Program.

The Vaccine Preventable Disease Control Program (VPDCP) at the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health is currently leading an initiative to encourage birthing hospitals to enroll in the VFC Program ahead of the upcoming respiratory season this fall.

As part of this effort, we're recruiting pediatricians to serve as **Immunization Champions** to advocate for birthing hospitals to enroll in the VFC Program. As part of this effort, champions will be asked to:

- Meet with Hospital CMOs, Pediatric Dept. Heads, and Maternal-Child Nursing Directors to advocate for VFC enrollment. VPDC's team is available to attend meetings as well.
- Share resources regarding the VFC Birthing Hospital Enrollment
- Meet with VPDCP Bi-monthly to discuss progress and address any barriers to enrollment.

Resources:

- [VFC Enrollment Birthing Hospitals](#)
- [CDC Information](#)
- [VFC Page for Birthing Hospitals.](#)

VPDC will help facilitate enrollment and training for birthing hospitals interested in joining the VFC program. We're eager to collaborate with any pediatrician willing to participate in this

endeavor! If you are interested in being an Immunization Champion, or have any questions please contact us at: LACIPInfo@ph.lacounty.gov.