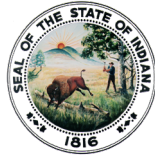





**Indiana  
Department  
of  
Health**



Eric J. Holcomb  
Governor

Lindsay M. Weaver, MD, FACEP  
State Health Commissioner

<p><b>Title:</b> Childhood Vaccine Eligibility Statement</p>	<p><b>Policy #:</b> IDOH Immunization Division Policy 2</p>
<p><b>Effective dates:</b> 01-Jan-24 to 31-Dec-24</p>	<p><b>Approvals:</b>    <hr/>           Dave McCormick, Immunization Director             July 7, 2024  <hr/>           Date</p>

## Policy Statement

The purpose of the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program is to increase access to immunizations in order to allow eligible children to remain in their medical home whenever possible. Specific criteria have been established for providers electing to enroll in the VFC Program. This policy also applies to any other publicly funded vaccine program enrollment with the Immunization Division.

## Eligibility Criteria

Any immunization provider enrolled in the Vaccines for Children Program can provide publicly funded vaccine to the following groups:

- Individuals from birth through 18 years of age (a child is considered 18 years of age *up to and until* the date of their 19 birthday) who meets one or more of the following criteria:
  - Is an American Indian/Alaskan Native
  - Has coverage through Medicaid
  - Has no health insurance (uninsured)
  - Is underinsured (insurance does not cover vaccines)
  - Has coverage through the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)
- For eligibility criteria for individuals 19 years of age and older, refer to Policy 3: Indiana Publicly Funded Adult Vaccine Eligibility Statement



## Definitions of Eligibility Categories

### Medicaid

A child who has any form of Medicaid insurance.

- Children and Hoosier Immunization Registry Program (CHIRP): Medicaid
- Administration fee: Bill to Medicaid, cannot be charged to client as an out-of-pocket expense

### Insured and Medicaid as Secondary Insurance

If a child has private health insurance covering vaccines and Medicaid as secondary insurance, the child, under these conditions, can be considered VFC eligible, depending on what is more cost effective for the patient.

### American Indian/Alaskan Native

A child who identifies as an American Indian or Alaskan Native, regardless of insurance.

- CHIRP: American Indian/Alaskan Native
- Administration Fee: May be charged to client as an out-of-pocket expense. Not to exceed \$20.32 per vaccine. *Vaccination may not be denied for inability to pay administration fee.*
- No documentation of ethnicity is required

### No Health Insurance

A child who does **not** have health insurance.

- CHIRP: Uninsured
- Administration Fee: May be charged to client as an out-of-pocket expense. Not to exceed \$20.32 per vaccine. *Vaccination may not be denied for inability to pay administration fee.*

### Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)

A child who has CHIP Medicaid Package C.

- CHIRP: CHIP
- Administration Fee: Bill to the health administrator. Cannot be charged to client as an out-of-pocket expense.

### Insurance Does Not Cover Vaccines (Underinsured)

Children who have commercial (private) health insurance, but the coverage does not include vaccines; children whose insurance covers only selected vaccines (these children are categorized as underinsured for non-covered vaccines only); and children whose insurance caps vaccine



coverage at a certain amount (once that coverage amount is reached, these children are categorized as underinsured). With the implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), it is rare for a child to meet the underinsured eligibility criteria for the VFC Program. Therefore, provider must verify insurance coverage prior to administration of vaccine.

- CHIRP: Underinsured
- Administration Fee: May be charged to client as an out-of-pocket expense. Not to exceed \$20.32 per vaccine. *Vaccination may not be denied for inability to pay administration fee.*
- The following are **not** considered underinsured.
  - Has a high deductible
  - Has 80/20 or percentage-based coverage
  - Has a co-pay
- If the child was vaccinated with private stock vaccine and an insurance denial of payment is later received for that dose, a provider may use the Borrowing Policy to transfer a VFC dose to their private stock. This must be documented on the Borrowing Form and reconciled in CHIRP.

### Fully Insured

A child who has health insurance that provides coverage for vaccines.

- CHIRP: Fully Insured
- Fully insured children must receive private stock vaccine and have their insurance billed
- All immunization providers are required to carry private stock vaccine. The only exception to this is when a provider is an authorized specialty provider, or other situations approved by the Indiana Department of Health on a case-by-case basis.

### Outbreaks and Mass Vaccination Campaigns

Previously approved mass vaccination campaigns:

- COVID-19 Campaign - Ended in Fall 2023, all vaccine for COVID-19 was purchased by the federal government and made available to all children and adults
- H1N1 Campaign – Ended in Spring 2010, all vaccine for H1N1 was purchased by the federal government and made available to all children and adults
- School Vaccination Campaign – In 2010, the new school required vaccines, Tdap, MCV and Varicella, were purchased using limited American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) funds, in addition to state and 317 funds. All students in grades 6-12 were eligible to receive publicly funded vaccine during mass clinics.



- Mass vaccination campaigns to address specific disease outbreaks may be approved as recommended by the Epidemiology Resource Center (ERC).

## Additional Information

### Administration Fees

- A child may never be turned away for the inability to pay an administration fee.
  - If the administration fee cannot be paid on the day of service, the provider may bill the patient one time within 90 days. If it is still not paid, the administration fee must be waived.
- Unpaid administration fees may never be sent to collections
- Donations may be accepted but are voluntary and must have no effect on whether the child will be vaccinated
- Medicaid reimbursement is \$15.00 per immunization. This cannot be charged to the client as an out-of-pocket expense. To obtain reimbursement, the expense must be billed to Medicaid.
- All other eligible groups have a maximum, out-of-pocket administration fee per immunization: \$20.32
- All ACIP recommended vaccinations are available as publicly funded vaccines
- All immunization providers are required to adhere to the ACIP recommendations for vaccine administration
- No additional eligibility requirements may be imposed by providers for the receipt of publicly purchased vaccine by eligible children
  - This includes but is not limited to requirements pertaining to residency, not having an established primary care physician, or the individual requesting data exclusion from the immunization registry
  - Private providers are not required to provide services to eligible children who are not established patients at their facility
  - Local health departments are considered by CDC as the safety net providers for the VFC population and they must administer VFC vaccine to any VFC-eligible children who present for immunization services at their facilities

### Vaccine Accountability

- All immunization providers are required to account for all publicly funded vaccine. Documenting all vaccination information in CHIRP as an administered dose is a requirement.



### **When State & 317 Funds Are Exhausted**

- Only Rural Health Clinics (RHCs)/Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and providers with a Delegation of Authority (DOA) will be able to vaccinate underinsured children with publicly funded vaccine