



Indiana State
Department of Health

Immunization E-Letter

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Indiana Vaccine Eligibility Requirements

The Indiana State Department of Health's Immunization Program provides federally funded and state purchased vaccines to County Health Departments; Public Health Clinics (i.e., Community Health Centers, City Health Departments, Federally Qualified Health Centers, etc.); and, private providers who are currently active in the Vaccines for Children Program (VFC).

Because the State Immunization Program receives vaccine funding from three different federal and state sources; and each of these funding sources dictate specific eligibility requirements for use, there continues to be confusion regarding vaccine eligibility for patients. Eligibility criteria for both the VFC and PHS 317 vaccine are detailed in the [ISDH, Immunization Program Vaccine Eligibility Policy \(Policy Number III-04, January 1, 2008 \[R1-2/6/08\]](#) which can be found at <https://chirp.in.gov>.

The three types of funded vaccine in Indiana are:

- Vaccines for Children (VFC) – All active VFC providers are eligible
- PHS317 – Only available for Health Departments and a limited number of Public Health Clinics
- State Purchased Vaccine (tobacco tax) – Only available to VFC providers who have specifically applied to use State Purchase Vaccine and have been approved.

VFC Example: A 16 year old girl who is underinsured arrives at a VFC provider for HPV vaccine. The VFC provider is not an FQHC, RHC, or DOA, so the girl is not eligible to receive the HPV vaccine at that provider. The provider should refer the girl to the local FQHC, RHC, or DOA. Had the girl been uninsured, on Medicaid or and American Indiana/Alaska Native the provider could have given her the HPV vaccine.

Vaccines for Children (VFC):

Children and adolescents eligible for VFC vaccines are those from birth through 18 years of age (less than 19 years of age) who are:

- Medicaid eligible
- Uninsured (A child who has no health insurance coverage)
- American Indian or, Alaska Native
- Underinsured – ***Underinsured children may only be served by VFC Providers who are also a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), Rural Health Clinic (RHC), or a local health department that has established delegation of authority through an FQHC or RHC (DOA).***

An underinsured child is one who has commercial (private) health insurance but the coverage does not include vaccines, or whose insurance covers only selected vaccines (VFC-eligible for non-covered vaccines only), or a child whose insurance caps vaccine coverage at a certain amount. Once that coverage amount is reached, the child is categorized as underinsured).

PHS317: This funding is specific to certain public health programs. The eligibility is defined by vaccine in the document referenced above. Looking at the example above this patient would not be eligible for the HPV vaccine because current PHS 317 policy does not allow the use HPV vaccine.

State Purchased Vaccine: This funding is specifically targets children under the age of three years. Looking at the example above this patient would not be eligible for the HPV under this program because she exceeds the age requirement.

Immunization Program

2 N. Meridian St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Phone: (800) 701-0704
E-mail: immunize@isdh.in.gov

Vaccine Storage and Handling - Certified Calibrated Thermometers

The National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends using **only certified calibrated thermometers for measuring vaccine storage unit temperatures**. All thermometers are calibrated during manufacturing, meaning that they are given a temperature scale. Certified calibrated thermometers undergo a second individual calibration against a reference standard from an appropriate agency, such as the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) or a laboratory recognized by NIST. Calibration can be traceable to NIST using American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) methods for the calibration process. They are then given a certificate indicating successful completion of this process, which is provided with the instrument when purchased. This certificate is different from the manufacturer's warranty. Certified calibrated thermometers are available through laboratory and scientific supply companies.

Avoid using thermometers that are not certified because they are not certified as accurate and they may not remain accurate with time. A thermometer costing a few dollars is not worth the risk of damaging thousands of dollars worth of vaccine because of inaccurate readings. In the long run, it is better to invest in a more expensive but more reliable certified calibrated thermometer because it is more cost-effective.

Providers enrolled in the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program are required to have certified calibrated thermometers in all refrigerators and freezers used for vaccine storage. Contact the Indiana State Department of Health Immunization Program at (800) 701-0704 for more information.

CHIRP Tip

CHIRP works best when your web-browser pop-up blocker is turned off. To do this in Internet Explorer 7 select tools in the menu bar, slide down to *pop-up blocker*, and then over to *turn off pop-up blocker*. If you are using an earlier version of Internet Explorer or a web browser other than Internet Explorer, please give the CHIRP helpdesk a call for assistance if you pop-up blocker is causing you problems.

CHIRP Informational Sessions

CHIRP Informational Sessions are designed for NON-CHIRP users interested in learning more about the benefits of using CHIRP in their facility or practice.

Call (888) 227-4439 or go to CHIRP.IN.GOV to register.

August 26, 2008
1:00 pm–3:00 pm

Kosciusko County

Kosciusko Community Hospital
Adm Classroom
2101 East Dubois Dr
Warsaw, IN 46580

CHIRP User Group Meeting - For *Current* CHIRP Users

This session is designed for CURRENT CHIRP users who are interested in learning about upcoming changes or who have specific questions regarding CHIRP usage.

Call (888) 227-4439 or go to the CHIRP.IN.GOV to register.

August 26, 2008
9:30 am –11:30 am

Kosciusko County

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Adm Classroom
2101 East Dubois Dr
Warsaw, IN 46580

CHIRP Regional & Webinar Trainings

The classes will be online. Participants need only a computer with internet access and sound/speakers. All trainings require pre-registration. To register please call (888) 227-4439

Webinar – School Nurse Module

August 27 – 7:00am–9:00am
August 27 –10:00am–12:00pm
August 27 – 1:30pm–3:30pm
August 27 – 3:45pm–5:45pm
September 2 – 10am - 12:00pm
September 2 – 2:30pm - 4:30pm
September 4 – 9am - 11:00am
September 4 – 1:30pm - 3:30pm