

State-supplied vaccines and screening for the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program

What are state-supplied vaccines?

MDPH makes vaccines available to all health care provider sites for the immunization of any child under 19 years of age using state funding for privately insured children and federal funding from the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program for Medicaid-eligible and other children who meet VFC eligibility. State supplied vaccines can only be used according to the most recent versions of the Childhood Vaccine Availability Table.

Why is it important to verify and document VFC eligibility correctly?

Providers are required to verify and document VFC Eligibility at every immunization visit for anyone less than 19 years of age. *If screening and documenting are not done correctly, this can be considered fraud.*

REMEMBER: With the exception of MenB vaccine, all children in the state of Massachusetts, regardless of eligibility status, from birth through the day before their 19th birthday are eligible for **STATE-SUPPLIED** vaccines. Children who are enrolled in secondary MassHealth insurance should also be screened as VFC Eligible. Children enrolled in sCHIP, or the Children's Medical Security Plan (CMSP) may receive all vaccines on the Childhood Availability Table but are not considered VFC eligible when screening or assessing for VFC eligibility.

How do I verify VFC eligibility?

VFC providers may check for VFC eligibility when patient's check-in at reception or in the exam room.

VFC eligibility criteria are outlined below:

Eligibility Categories	Document
Enrolled in Medicaid: A child eligible for Mass Health or Medicaid, including Medicaid HMO's. <i>→This category may be selected even if the child has Mass Health or Medicaid as <u>secondary</u> insurance.</i>	VFC Eligible - Medicaid
Uninsured: A child with no health insurance.	VFC Eligible - Uninsured
American Indian, Alaskan Native: A child who (or whose parent/guardian) self identifies as American Indian/Native American or Alaskan Native. <i>→No documentation/verification is required.</i>	VFC Eligible – AI/AN
Underinsured: A child's health insurance does not cover the cost of immunization. <i>→Only VFC eligible if seen at a <u>Federally Qualified Health Center</u></i>	VFC Eligible - Underinsured
Private Insurance: A child has a private health insurance such as Blue Cross Blue Shield, Harvard Pilgrim, Tufts, Cigna, Tricare, Aetna, etc. <i>→This list is not exhaustive; there are other private health insurance companies. When in doubt, check with your billing office.</i>	Not VFC Eligible

Where do I document VFC Eligibility?

The outcome of the VFC screening and verification must be documented and dated. VFC eligibility is documented using a paper hardcopy VFC Eligibility Screening Form or the Electronic Health Record (EHR).

If your office does not use an EHR, paper VFC Eligibility forms should be kept in the patient's chart. Each subsequent immunization visit should be documented on this form.

Many EHRs have created internal drop-down menus offering several options for VFC eligibility. To establish consistency, this table shows the only options to be selected when documenting VFC eligibility in an EHR in MA:

Eligibility Categories	Electronic Health Record Drop Down Selections
Medicaid/Mass Health	VFC Eligible- Medicaid
Uninsured	VFC Eligible- Uninsured
American Indian/ Alaskan Native	VFC Eligible- American Indian/Alaskan Native
Underinsured	VFC Eligible- Underinsured
Private Insurance	NOT VFC ELIGIBLE

→The use of any other options, including, but not limited to: *state specific eligible, local specific eligible, unknown* or names of other specific programs is **not acceptable** in Massachusetts.

Resources for success

Find the following forms and more at the Vaccine Management web page:

<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/vaccine-management>

→ **Childhood Availability Table**

→ **Adult Availability Table**

→ **Guidelines for Compliance with Federal Vaccine Administration Requirements**

→ **Agreement to Comply with Federal/State Requirements for Participation in MDPH Immunization Division**

Have questions?

MIIS Help Desk: (617) 983-4335

Call the Help Desk about MIIS registration, user management, overall system navigation, or other technical questions

Vaccine Unit: (617) 983-6828

Call the Vaccine Unit for questions on proper vaccine storage and handling, vaccine orders, and vaccine management