

# Massachusetts State-supplied vaccines and screening for the Vaccine Program

## What are state-supplied vaccines?

All sites enrolled in the Vaccine Program (including Specialty providers, Respiratory Vaccine-Only providers, and Adult-Only providers) must consider all doses received via the Vaccine Program as state-supplied vaccine and utilized according to the [Guidelines for Compliance](#). State supplied vaccines can only be used according to the most recent versions of the [Childhood](#) and [Adult](#) 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.* Apart from 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 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?

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

## 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](#):

- [Childhood Availability Table](#)
- [Adult Availability Table](#)
- [DPH Recommended Guidance for Vaccines](#)
- [Guidelines for Compliance with State Vaccine Program Requirements](#)
- [Agreement to Comply with State Vaccine Program Requirements](#)

## 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 Program: (617) 983-6828

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