

Section 3 **Healthy Kids/EPSTD Screening Components**

D. IMMUNIZATIONS

The Maryland Healthy Kids Program requires the primary care provider (PCP) to review the child/adolescent's immunization status and to administer any vaccines needed to bring the immunization status up-to-date according to the current *Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Recommended Childhood Immunization Schedule* (Refer to Section 7, Appendix III).¹ This immunization schedule provides the most current recommendations of the Public Health Service's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and is endorsed by the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland (Med-Chi). Refer to the vaccine manufacturer's current guidelines and the latest ACIP and AAP recommendations for specific vaccine use. When administering combination vaccines, the physician has to refer to the *Maryland Suggested Immunization Schedule Using Combination Vaccines*. (Refer to Section 7, Appendix III).²

The immunization requirements for entry into school and childcare may be slightly different. Infants may enter a childcare center at 6 weeks if they have received their initial series of immunizations.

To check the current immunization schedules for childcare and school entry, follow the link below:

https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/OIDEOR/IMMUN/Shared%20Documents/Min_Vacc_Req_2017-18_Final.pdf.

For additional information, contact the *Center for Immunization*³ by phone at **410-767-6679** or by e-mail at DHMH.IZinfo@maryland.gov.

Immunization Records

Immunizations should be summarized and recorded on one immunization record, such as the *VFC Vaccine Administration Record (DHMH 4500)* (Refer to Section 7, Appendix III) in a standard location that is prominent and easily available for reference in the child/teen's medical record. Federal law requires the following information:

- The vaccine manufacturer and lot number of the vaccine used
- The date of administration
- The name and title of the person administering the vaccine as well as the address of practice site
- The edition date of the Vaccine Information Statement

¹ To access the most current schedule, follow the link: <http://www.marylandvfc.org/vfc-program-documents/>.

² To access the suggested schedule, follow the link: <http://www.marylandvfc.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/VFC-Combination-Products.pdf>.

³ See <http://phpa.dhmh.maryland.gov/OIDEOR/IMMUN/Pages/Home.aspx>.

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- The date these materials were provided

Baltimore City Law requires Baltimore City based pediatric, family and general providers to submit a record of immunizations administered to a preschool child (up to 5 years of age).⁴ For more information, contact the **Baltimore Immunization Registry Program (BIRP)** at **410-545-3048**.

Review the immunization record at each visit. Instruct the parent or guardian to bring the immunization record with them on the initial visit. If the record is not available from the parent, the child's previous health care provider, school or childcare facility should be able to provide the child's immunization history. Obtain a signed medical release of information and document these efforts in the medical record. The following Maryland area immunization registries may assist the primary care provider in obtaining a child's immunization record:

- ***ImmuNet*** – **Maryland's Immunization Registry**⁵
 - An internet based system that receives and stores childhood and adult immunization records
 - Contact the Help Desk at **410-767-6606** to enroll
- **Baltimore Immunization Registry Program**
 - For a child/adolescent, who lived in the city or attends a Baltimore City Public School
 - Contact **410-545-3048**
- **Washington DC Immunization Registry**
 - If a child/adolescent lived in or attended school in Washington DC
 - Contact **202-576-9301**

In rare instances when records cannot be located, the DHMH Center for Immunization recommends beginning the immunizations again following the appropriate *Catch-up Schedule*, using minimum intervals between doses (Refer to Section 7, Appendix III). Continue immunizing until the child is brought up to date or the record is located. Positive titers for measles, mumps, rubella, varicella and polio can substitute for vaccination.

If parents indicate that their religious beliefs conflict with the immunization requirement, a signed waiver or objection should be placed in the medical record.

⁴ Baltimore City Code, Subtitle 5, § 4-510

⁵ For more information, visit the *Immunet* website at <https://www.mdimmunet.org/>.

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Adverse Events

Specific adverse events should be reported to the *Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS)* following vaccination with any vaccine. Contact **1-800-822-7967** to obtain reporting forms and other related information, or visit the *VAERS* web site at <http://www.vaers.hhs.gov>. In Maryland, adverse pertussis vaccine events are also reportable to the local health departments.

Vaccine Information Statements

Federal regulation under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act requires providers to supply, **prior to administration of each dose of vaccine**, a copy of the relevant, current edition of Vaccine Information Statements (VIS) produced by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to the parent or legal representative of any child about to receive that vaccine⁶. Camera-ready Vaccine Information Statements may be obtained in English, Spanish and a variety of other languages on the CDC web site by following the link <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/current-vis.html> or contacting **Vaccines for Children Program** at **410-767-6679**.

The Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program

The Maryland Healthy Kids Program requires that providers enroll in the *Maryland VFC Program*,⁷ regardless of whether the provider is participating with a MCO or fee-for-service Medical Assistance. The VFC Program is a federal initiative implemented in 1994 that provides vaccines to health care providers, at no cost, for children/adolescents from birth through 18 years of age who are:

- Eligible for Medical Assistance
- Uninsured, without health insurance
- Under-insured, covered by private insurance that does not pay for immunizations⁸
- Native American Indian or Alaskan Native

The Vaccines for Children Program requires providers to submit a practice profile (e.g., MCO panels, *Log of Children Receiving VFC Vaccines*) representing populations served by the practice/facility annually (Refer to Section 7, Appendix III). Providers must also submit a *VFC Vaccine Inventory Form* (Refer to Section 7, Appendix III) six times a year (January, March, May, July, September, and November) and may need to document the

⁶ See <http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2027.pdf>.

⁷ See <http://www.marylandvfc.org/>.

⁸ Underinsured children are eligible to receive VFC vaccine only through a Federally Qualified Center (FQHC), Rural Health Clinic (RHC) or Maryland Local Health Department.

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number of VFC eligible children in the practice in order to receive an adequate supply of vaccine.⁹ Complete the *VFC Patient Eligibility Screening Record* (Refer to Section 7, Appendix III) for every child/adolescent who receives the free vaccines.

Providers must also maintain a privately purchased stock of vaccines to cover required immunizations not provided through the VFC Program for children and adolescents on Medical Assistance. Examples include hepatitis B, Td, varicella and meningococcal vaccines for young adults, 19 to 20 years of age. Synagis for at risk premature infants is also not available through VFC. However, it is available and covered when prior approval is obtained from infant's MCO. To print prior authorization forms for infants on Medicaid Fee-For-Service, follow the link:

[https://mmcp.dhmh.maryland.gov/pap/docs/Synagis%20Service%20PA%20Form%20\(Initial\)%20Oct%202015%20final.pdf](https://mmcp.dhmh.maryland.gov/pap/docs/Synagis%20Service%20PA%20Form%20(Initial)%20Oct%202015%20final.pdf).

The *VFC Program Contact Center* provides a full range of support for VFC Providers including answering questions related to VFC vaccine supply, vaccine delivery, vaccine allocations and other related issues. To improve customer service, VFC Providers in each jurisdiction have been assigned a phone number to reach the VFC Contact Center: **410-274-6240 (Baltimore County, Baltimore City, Howard and Harford counties), 410-299-5647 (Frederick, Montgomery and Prince George's counties), and 410-404-4128 (all other counties)** (Refer the Section 7, Appendix III). The VFC Center can be also be reached by e-mail at IZinfo.@dhmh.state.md.us or by fax at **410-333-5893**.

Per federal CDC regulations, VFC providers are required to re-enroll annually in order to receive VFC vaccine. For instructions on how to re-enroll, follow the link: <http://www.marylandvfc.org/vfc-provider-enrollment/>.

The VFC provider site visits are conducted by VFC Site Reviewers who visit each practice every other year to review records for the federally required vaccine administration documentation and adequate vaccine storage.

Proper storage of vaccines involves maintaining refrigerator temperatures at 35 to 46 degrees Fahrenheit (2 to 8 degrees Centigrade) and freezer temperatures at 5 degrees Fahrenheit or lower (-15 degrees Centigrade or lower).¹⁰ Use the *Vaccine Storage/Temperature Record* (Refer to Section 7, Appendix III) or a similar record to record the temperatures of the refrigerator and freezer twice daily. The freezer should be a separate storage area with a separate door from the refrigerator storage area. Remove expired vaccines from the refrigerator/freezer, complete a *Vaccine Return and Wastage Form* (Refer to Section 7, Appendix III) and notify the VFC Program. The Maryland Healthy Kids nurse consultants may also check for appropriate vaccine storage and monitor vaccine expiration dates when they conduct their on-site medical record review.

⁹ Maryland Vaccines for Children Program Vaccine Management Plan. Retrieved on 06/18/2015, from http://www.marylandvfc.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/MD-VFC-VACCINE-MANAGEMENT-PLAN_-Rev-March_2015.pdf.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

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For more information visit the **Vaccines for Children** website at <http://www.marylandvfc.org> or contact **410-767-6679**.

Direct any questions regarding immunization reimbursement to the *Healthy Kids Program Nurse Consultants* at **410-767-1903** (Refer to Section 8). For answers to questions regarding vaccine administration, contact the **Vaccines for Children Program** at **410-767-6679**.

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