



December 2025/January 2026 | Issue #8

ImmuNews

Wisconsin Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program Newsletter

VFC Provider Resource Guide:

Check out the [Provider Resource Guide](#) which contains a wealth of information. It is easily accessible on the [VFC website](#). The resource guide includes information about the VFC program and its requirements. It contains numerous links, visual prompts, and explanations of the program.

On the [VFC website](#) you will find direct links to VFC forms such as, agreements, temperature excursion form, vaccine return form, change of information form, temperature logs, borrowing form, wasted record form, and temperature excursion incident report.

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Seasonal Shipping

All VFC providers must provide any seasonal changes in office hours in the Wisconsin Immunization Registry (WIR), to assure deliveries will be made when the facility is open. If you do not update your delivery hours, your clinic may be responsible for replacing spoiled vaccine due to delivery while your location is closed.

Please check your vaccine inventory and ensure you have sufficient vaccine (a four-week inventory is suggested) to meet your needs given the ordering blackouts and limited shipping noted below.

December 2025

- Orders received in WIR after December 11, 2025, may not ship until after January 5, 2026, or later.
- There will be limited deliveries beginning December 22, 2025.
- No Deliveries December 24, 25, 26, or 31.

January 2026

- There will be no deliveries on January 1 or 2, 2026, due to the New Year holiday.
- Regular deliveries will resume January 5, 2026.
- There will be no deliveries on January 19, 2026, due to the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

reminder

Update your delivery hours in WIR if your clinic is going to be closed outside of normal hours due to the holidays.



COVID-19 Vaccines

The updated 2025-2026 COVID-19 schedule was implemented into WIR in early November. It now forecasts for all clients starting at age 6 months. A few resources focused on the COVID-19 vaccine schedule include The American Academy of Pediatrics' (AAP) [Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccine Dosing Quick Reference Guide](#), and the updated guidance on the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) [2025-2026 COVID-19 vaccine guidance webpage](#).

COVID-19 vaccines are currently available to all VFC providers for ordering within WIR. The products that are available are displayed below. As a reminder, it is an expectation that all of Wisconsin's VFC providers maintain an appropriate inventory of COVID vaccine to protect the population that you serve. See the [COVID-19 ordering GovD](#) for more details.

	Pfizer		Moderna		Sanofi/ Novavax
Product	Comirnaty 5yr -11yr	Comirnaty 12+	Spikevax 6mo - 11yr	Spikevax 12+	Nuvaxovid 12+
Presentation	.3 mL Single Dose Vial	.3 mL Prefilled Syringe	.25 mL Prefilled Syringe	.5 mL Prefilled Syringe	.5 mL Prefilled Syringe
Shipping	Ultra-cold (on dry ice)	Refrigerated	Frozen	Frozen	Refrigerated
Storage	Refrigerator: 10 weeks	Refrigerator: Until expiration	Freezer: Until expiration Refrigerator: 60 days	Freezer: Until expiration Refrigerator: 60 days	Refrigerator: Until expiration



Health care professionals are a parent or guardian's most trusted source of vaccine information. You hold a critical role in helping parents choose to vaccinate their child, and a strong recommendation from you has been shown to improve vaccine uptake.

New studies are now showing further benefits of Covid vaccination:

- [Covid vaccines may increase the lifespan of cancer patients.](#)
- [Covid raises risk of heart issues in children more than vaccination.](#)
- [Vaccination against Covid-19 may experience fewer related infections and allergic complications.](#)



Keeping Current

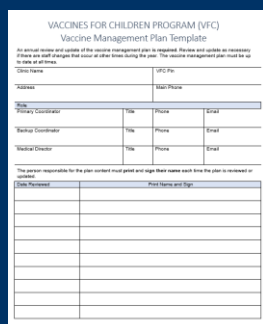
The VFC Program strives to provide the best customer service possible. To serve all VFC providers and organizations in a timely fashion, it is extremely important that **every time you contact the program (via phone, voicemail, email, or fax) please include your name, the clinic you are associated with, and the VFC PIN number.**

The VFC program provides refrigerator magnets at site visits with your pin number on them, so you will have easy access to that number. If you have not received a magnet yet, or would like additional ones, ask your regional representative or site monitor.

Vaccine Management Plan

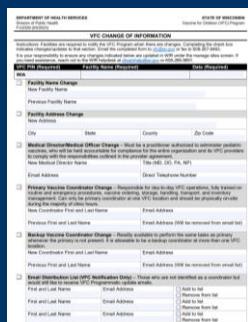
Did you know that the VFC vaccine management plan needs to be updated every time there are changes, not just when a VFC compliance site visit is imminent? This includes routine and emergency storage and handling processes. Updated versions must include the date of the update.

VFC providers can use the [WI VFC Vaccine Management Plan Template](#) available on our [VFC website](#). We suggest that the plan be kept on the vaccine storage unit for easy access.

The image shows a circular graphic containing a document titled "VACCINES FOR CHILDREN PROGRAM (VFC) Vaccine Management Plan Template". The document includes fields for Clinic Name, VFC PIN, Address, and Phone. It also has sections for Primary Coordinator, Backup Coordinator, and Medical Director, each with fields for Name, Phone, and Email. At the bottom, there is a table for "Date Performed" and "Vaccine Name and Dose".

VFC Change of Information (COI) Form

Clinics and organizations are required to complete and submit a [change of information](#) form when there are changes related to the organization, such as name, medical director, or primary and back-up vaccine coordinators. This is a critical information tool to make sure the VFC Program has the most up to date information for your organization.

The image shows a circular graphic containing a document titled "VFC CHANGE OF INFORMATION". The document includes fields for Facility Name Change, Facility Address Change, Medical Director Change, Backup Coordinator Change, and Primary Coordinator Change. It also has sections for Facility Name, Facility Address, Medical Director, Backup Coordinator, and Primary Coordinator, each with fields for Name, Phone, and Email. At the bottom, there is a table for "Date Performed" and "Vaccine Name and Dose".

The form should be submitted every time there are changes. At the time of submission, it is critical for your staff to make any primary and backup coordinator changes in WIR. Check the form for accuracy before submitting, assuring that the PIN number and facility name are included. Forms that are missing this information will be returned for completion.



Vaccine Deliveries and Shipment Alerts

Sites are required to report all vaccine delivery tag alerts, shipment discrepancies, or delays to the VFC Program on the same day they occur. Do not reject orders in WIR unless instructed to do so by VFC staff.

Please see the reporting requirements below.

Requirements for Vaccine Shipment Tag Alert

Step 1

Please store these vaccines appropriately and label DO NOT USE, and do not dispose of any of the packing materials until viability determination is provided.

Step 2

Contact Dawn Howard at dawn.howard@dhs.wisconsin.gov or vfc@wi.gov. If it is after the VFC program's normal business hours, please contact McKesson by phone 1-877-TEMP123 (1-877-836-7123) and leave a voicemail.

Step 3

In the email, please include:

- A picture of the temp monitor
- A picture of the shipment packaging including the label on the box
- A picture of the packing slip
- A picture of the bar code sticker on the back of the packing slip (if one is there)

Step 4

Dawn or another VFC staff member will contact you about next steps.



Pfizer Packing Slips

Providers should be familiar with the three possible packing slip locations for the 2025-2026 COVID-19 season.

Location	Which vaccines?
Two stickers on inner flap of shipper	Any Vaccine
Paper packing slip inside shipper	Comirnaty (never frozen) 12+ only
Underside of shipping label on the outside of the shipper 	Any Vaccine
Shipping label has markings along the sides that indicate "Peel for Pack Slip"	

Comirnaty (never frozen) 12+ vaccine shipments are shipped refrigerated using a qualified pack out. All packing slip for this product include information to help the receiver determine viability.

- The pack list shows the date and time by which product must be received
- If received after the stated date and time on the packing slip, the WI VFC Program and Pfizer customer service will need to be contacted to determine product viability
- Below is an excerpt of a packing list with relevant information highlighted

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	NDC NUMBER	LOT NUMBER	EXPIRY DATE
FD00054015	COMIRNATY 0.1mg/ml 10x0.418ml PFS AND US	1 EA	00069243210	MD3414	09/06/2025
Packed on 04/24/2025 at 07:34:25 EDT			Must be received by 04/28/2025 at 07:34:25 EDT If not, please contact Pfizer customer service at 800-666-7248		



Flu Prebooking

Flu prebooking season is coming soon, and now is the best time to start thinking about what your flu prebooking needs will be for the 2026-2027 season. A GovDelivery email will be sent to all VFC providers with detailed prebooking instructions mid-January.



Determining Amount of Vaccine to Order

When preparing to submit your prebook order, you should order enough vaccine to cover your cohort of children that are eligible to receive VFC vaccine. Before placing your order, we strongly urge you to review your practice's influenza rates and challenge your practice to increase the number of individuals vaccinated by at least 5%. To reach these goals, it will be important for you to review how and when you communicate with your patients regarding influenza vaccine, vaccine availability throughout the flu season, and the importance and benefits of being vaccinated, particularly for high-risk patients.



Spotlight on Immunization Quality Improvement: Facilitate Return for Vaccination

This immunization Quality Improvement (QI) strategy involves implementing processes that support follow-up and address barriers to vaccination. It promotes adherence to the immunization schedule by:

- Explicitly specifying why and when future doses are due.
- Reducing the likelihood of missed appointments and missed opportunities.
- Making vaccination more accessible by expanding practice hours, allowing walk-in vaccination appointments, and ensuring the next vaccination appointment is scheduled before the patient leaves the office.

Examples of strategy implementation activities include:

Conduct routine training with front-desk staff on current vaccine recommendations and schedules to minimize scheduling errors.

Maintain accurate patient contact information by verifying and updating the information at each appointment. This also allows reminder/recall efforts to be more successful.

Track no-shows and cancellations. Contact patients within the same week to reschedule.

Take action to prevent missed opportunities. If child is too sick for vaccinations at an acute visit, use this opportunity to schedule a nurse visit for vaccinations.

Consistently schedule the next vaccine appointment before the patient leaves office (either in the exam room or at check-out).

Inform parents of future vaccine dates by giving them a copy of their child's immunization record and list of future recommended vaccines with precise due dates.

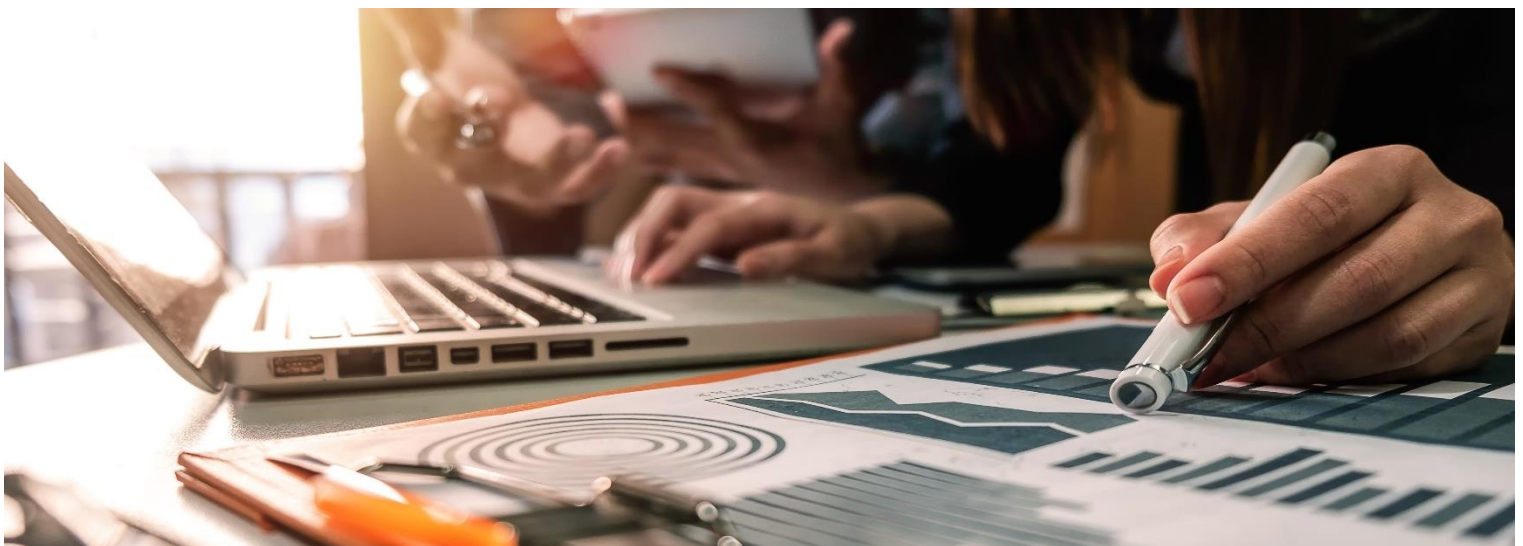
Offer various types of appointments, including nurse visits for vaccinations, drive-thru vaccine clinics, walk-ins or after-hours vaccine clinic days.

Implement reminder recall systems using multiple methods such as text messages, portal messages, emails, postcards, phone calls.

Spotlight on Immunization QI: Facilitate Return for Vaccination

Evidence Base and Justification

- Supports parents in keeping their child's vaccinations on time by establishing continuity of care, creating a commitment to return, and reducing barriers to vaccination.
- Reduces likelihood of missed appointments and promotes adherence to vaccine schedule.
- A [2018](#) review of 75 studies concluded that using reminder/recall systems in primary care settings improved vaccination coverage across all age groups.
- A 2017 American Academy of Pediatrics [clinical report](#) asserts that making families aware of when vaccines are needed and scheduling follow-up appointments before they leave are crucial steps to increase adolescent vaccination rates.
- Studies from [2010](#) and [2016](#) of seasonal influenza vaccine uptake demonstrated the success of the default vaccination appointment approach.



Resources

VFC Open Forums

VFC open forum sessions are held once a month as a space to ask questions that you might have about VFC, vaccine ordering, WIR, WIR reports and more. Please save the following dates for future VFC open forums:

- January 7, 2026, 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
- February 4, 2026, 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

In case you missed them, [previous open forums](#) are recorded.



Updated QR Code Resource

Immunize.org updated three of their printable QR tables. When scanned or clicked, these QR codes will bring the user directly to the updated VIS.



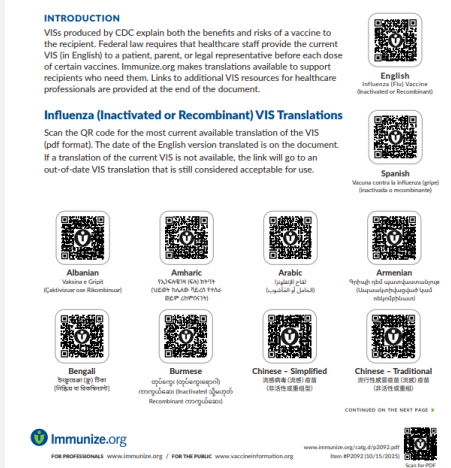
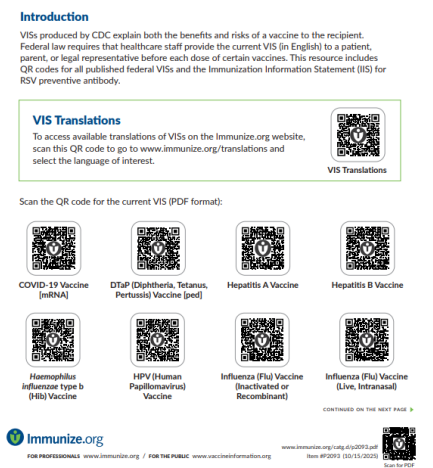
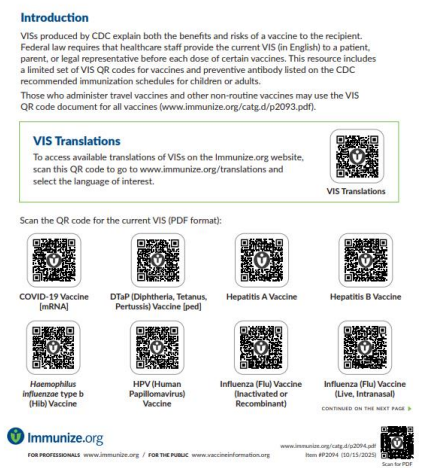
QR Code Links to Routinely Recommended Vaccine Information Statements (VISs)



QR Code Links to All Vaccine Information Statements (VISs)



QR Code Links to Vaccine Information
Statement (VIS) Translations
Influenza (Flu) Vaccine
(Inactivated or Recombinant)



QR Code Links to Routinely Recommended Vaccine Information Statements (VISs)

QR Code Links to All Vaccine Information Statements (VISs):

QR Code Links to Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) Translations: Influenza (Flu) Vaccine (Inactivated or Recombinant):



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