

# The Vaccines for Children Program (VFC)

Assistance is available at *PediatricCare* to help pay for your child's vaccines

The Vaccines for Children Program (VFC) is a federally funded program that provides vaccines at no cost to children who might not otherwise be vaccinated because of inability to pay. VFC was created by the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 as a new entitlement program to be a required part of each state's Medicaid plan. The program was officially implemented in October 1994.

Vaccines available through the VFC Program are those recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and approved by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The CDC, as the administrator of VFC, purchases and distributes the vaccines to private and public health care providers, who are enrolled in the VFC Program. *PediatricCare*, part of the Stormont-Vail HealthCare system of care, is proud to be a provider and participant of the VFC program.

## Is my child eligible for the VFC Program?

Your child is eligible if he or she is between the ages of 0 to 18 years, and is one of the following:

- Medicaid-eligible or
- Uninsured

## Where can I go to get my child vaccinated?

*PediatricCare* is a participant in the VFC program. Any patient of *PediatricCare*, who is either Medicaid-eligible or uninsured, can participate in the VFC program.

If your child's doctor is not a VFC provider, the Shawnee County Health Agency, 1615 S.W. 8th Ave., can help your child, or visit [http://www.kdheks.gov/immunize/vfc\\_program.html](http://www.kdheks.gov/immunize/vfc_program.html) to learn more about your options.

## How much will I have to pay?

All vaccines are free through the VFC Program, saving you \$100 or more on some vaccines. Even though you're saving a great deal of money by getting free vaccines, there can be other costs to the VFC visit:

- Doctors can charge a fee to give each shot. However, VFC vaccines cannot be denied to an eligible child if the family cannot afford the fee.
- There can be a fee for the office visit.
- There can be fees for non-vaccines services, like an eye exam or a blood test.

## What vaccinations does the VFC program provide?

The VFC program provides all vaccines recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, which are approved by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Academy of Family Physicians.

## How do I enroll my child in the VFC program?

To enroll your child, you are encouraged to talk with your child's physician, and:

- Request to fill out the VFC enrollment form
- Agree to follow the VFC program guidelines

## What vaccinations does the VFC program recommend?

- Diphtheria
- Haemophilus Influenzae type B (Hib)
- Hepatitis A
- Hepatitis B
- Human Papillomavirus (HPV)
- Influenza (flu)
- Measles
- Meningococcal disease
- Mumps
- Pertussis (Whooping cough)
- Pneumococcal disease
- Polio
- Rotavirus
- Rubella (German measles)
- Tetanus (Lockjaw)
- Varicella (Chickenpox)

Source: [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/vfc/parents/flyer-vfc-parents.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/vfc/parents/flyer-vfc-parents.htm)

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