

**NORTH CAROLINA IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM (NCIP) COVERAGE
CRITERIA FOR ALL CHILDREN PRESENT IN NORTH CAROLINA**

Effective: February 2024

The purpose of this document is to distinguish which cohorts of persons, present in North Carolina, are eligible for vaccine from the North Carolina Immunization Program (NCIP). NCIP vaccine is available for eligible children through the age of 18 in compliance with recommendations made by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. Exceptions for adult vaccine usage are noted below. Additional exceptions for outbreak control purposes (if applicable) can be found in the NCIP Coverage Criteria Supplement. ACIP recommends certain vaccines for certain cohorts who are not covered by NCIP vaccine. Health care providers must use privately purchased vaccine for those cohorts who wish to have vaccine and are not covered by this coverage criteria. Questions about current recommendations for each vaccine can be found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/index.html>. Local Health Departments (LHD); Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) and Rural Health Clinics (RHC) are noted throughout when there is vaccine usage specific to their facilities.

VACCINE	AGES COVERED	ELIGIBILITY	CRITERIA FOR NCIP VACCINE USAGE
COVID-19 Moderna 2023-2024	6 months – 11 years	VFC ONLY	
COVID-19 Spikevax 2023-2024	12+ years	VFC ONLY or BRIDGE ACCESS	VFC ONLY - Children birth through 18 years of age BRIDGE ACCESS - Adults 19 years of age or older (See page 6 *****)
COVID-19 Novavax 2023-2024	12+ years	VFC ONLY or BRIDGE ACCESS	VFC ONLY - Children birth through 18 years of age BRIDGE ACCESS - Adults 19 years of age or older (See page 6 *****)
COVID-19 PFIZER 2023-2024	6 months – 4 years	VFC ONLY	
COVID-19 PFIZER 2023-2024	5 years – 11 years	VFC ONLY	
COVID-19 Comirnaty 2023-2024	12+ years	VFC ONLY or BRIDGE ACCESS	VFC ONLY - Children birth through 18 years of age BRIDGE ACCESS - Adults 19 years of age or older (See page 6 *****)
DTaP	≥2 months through 6 years	VFC ONLY	
DTaP, Hep B, and polio combination (Pediarix®)	≥ 2 months through 6 years	VFC ONLY	
DTaP, polio, and Hib combination (Pentacel®)	≥ 2 months through 4 years	VFC ONLY	
DTaP, polio, Hib, and Hep B combination (Vaxelis™)	≥ 6 weeks through 4 years	VFC ONLY	
DTaP/IPV combination (Kinrix®; Quadracel®)	≥ 4 years through 6 years	VFC ONLY	Only to be used for children > 4 years through 6 years of age. Kinrix as the 5th dose in the DTaP series, & as the 4th in the IPV series Quadracel as the 5th dose in the DTaP series, & as the 4th or 5th dose in the IPV series.

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Hepatitis A Pediatric use	12 months through 18 years	VFC ONLY	Hepatitis A vaccine may be given to children 12 months through 18 years of age who are VFC-eligible only. Hepatitis A vaccine may be given to VFC -eligible infants 6 months through 11 months of age who are traveling to an area of the world except the United States, Canada, western Europe and Scandinavia, Japan, New Zealand, and Australia.
Hepatitis B Pediatric use	Birth through 18 years	VFC ONLY	The birth dose of Hepatitis B vaccine is available universally for newborns at VFC enrolled birthing hospitals. Other doses of hepatitis B* vaccine may be given to children through 18 years of age who are VFC-eligible only. LHD Only: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Children through 18 years of age, regardless of insurance status who are household, sexual, or needle sharing contacts of an acute or chronic Hepatitis B infected person may receive Hepatitis B vaccine at the LHD. All household, sexual, or needle sharing contacts of an acute or chronic Hepatitis B infected person must be referred to the LHD for testing and vaccination. <i>*Heplisav-B® (two-dose series can be used for eligible individuals 18 years of age and older).</i>
Hepatitis B Pediatric Product (Engerix-B®) (Recombivax®) (Heplisav-B®)	Certain adults 19 years of age	UNINSURED 19 YEARS OF AGE	Any uninsured adult 19 years of age may receive state-supplied Hep B if the first dose of Hep B is administered before the 19th birthday. The series must be complete before the 20th birthday if using state- supplied vaccine. LHD Only: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Uninsured immigrants with refugee status who are from endemic countries who are 19 years of age may receive Hepatitis B vaccine at the LHD. All immigrants with refugee status must be referred to the LHD for testing and vaccination. ❖ Adults 19 years of age, regardless of insurance status, who are household, sexual or needle sharing contacts of an acute or chronic Hepatitis B infected person may receive Hepatitis B vaccine at the LHD. All household, sexual, or needle sharing contacts of an acute or chronic Hepatitis B infected person must be referred to the LHD for testing/vaccination.
Hepatitis B Adult use	Certain adults ≥ 20 years may receive state-supplied Hep B	ADULT USE	LHD Only: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Individuals who are ≥20 years of age, regardless of insurance status, who are household, sexual or needle sharing contacts of an acute or chronic Hepatitis B infected person may receive Hepatitis B* vaccine at the LHD. All household, sexual, or needle sharing contacts of an acute or chronic Hepatitis B infected person must be referred to the LHD for testing and vaccination. ❖ Uninsured immigrants with refugee status who are from endemic countries who are ≥ 20 years of age may receive Hepatitis B vaccine at the LHD. All immigrants with refugee status must be referred to the LHD for testing and vaccination. <i>*Heplisav-B® (two-dose series can be used)</i>
HepA/HepB Combination (Twinrix®)	≥ 18 years	UNINSURED ADULT USE	LHD/FQHC/RHC Only: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Any uninsured adult who meets one or more of the ACIP recommended coverage groups can receive a three-dose series of the combination Hep A/Hep B vaccine at the LHD, FQHC, or RHC. <i>*State-supplied Hep A/Hep B vaccine cannot be used for the accelerated schedule, four dose series or for persons with a documented history of a completed hepatitis A or B series.</i>

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Hib	≥ 2 months through 4 years	VFC ONLY	Certain high-risk children >59 months through 18 years of age, who are not appropriately vaccinated, may receive one dose.
9vHPV (Gardasil® 9)	Females and males 9 through 18 years	VFC ONLY	State-supplied Gardasil® (9-valent) vaccines for HPV are available for males and females 9 through 18 years of age. The series must be completed prior to the 19th birthday.
Influenza Pediatric use	≥ 6 months through 18 years	VFC ONLY	
Influenza Adult use IIV4 (Fluarix®, Fluzone®, FluLaval®, Afluria® & Flucelvax® 0.5 mL pre-filled syringes only)	Certain adults, (19 and older) without insurance	UNINSURED ADULT USE	LHD/FQHC/RHC Only: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Non-Medicaid, uninsured women who are pregnant during flu season, and receiving services at the LHD, FQHC, or RHC. ❖ Persons enrolled in the Be Smart family planning program**** receiving services at the LHD, FQHC, or RHC. *Please refer to the seasonal influenza memo.
Meningococcal Conjugate (MenQuadfi™) (Menveo®)	≥ 2 months through 10 years	VFC ONLY	Available for children with high-risk conditions. MenQuadfi™ starts at 2 years of age. MENVEO® one-vial Is approved for use in individuals 10 years through 55 (single vial with a pink cap and does NOT require reconstitution.) MENVEO® two-vial. Although the two-vial presentation is indicated for use in individuals ages 2 months through 55 years, due to limited quantities providers are encouraged to begin limiting use to children ages 2 months through 2 years at increased risk of meningococcal disease as this is the only product available for this age group. (MENVEO® two-vial must be reconstituted prior to administration.)
Meningococcal Conjugate (Menveo®) (MenQuadfi™)	11 through 18 years	VFC ONLY	For routine and catch-up adolescent vaccination
Meningococcal Serogroup B Bexsero® Trumenba®	10 through 18 years	VFC ONLY	MenB vaccines are recommended & available for children ≥10 through 18 years of age at increased risk of disease. MenB may be administered to adolescents aged 16–18 years of age who are not at increased risk for meningococcal disease based on the provider’s clinical discretion. Follow ACIP guidance.
MMR Pediatric use	≥ 12 months through 18 years	VFC ONLY	MMR vaccine may be given to children 12 months through 18 years of age who are VFC-eligible only. MMR vaccine may be given to VFC-eligible infants 6 months through 11 months of age who will be traveling internationally.

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MMR Adult use	Certain adults (19 and older) without insurance	UNINSURED ADULT USE	<p>One dose of MMR vaccine is available for:</p> <p><u>LHD only:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Uninsured immigrants with refugee status of any age without documentation of a prior MMR may receive MMR at the LHD. <p><u>LHD/FQHC/RHC only:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ All uninsured susceptible persons without documentation of a prior MMR may receive MMR at the LHD, FQHC, or RHC. <p>Two doses of MMR vaccine are available for:</p> <p>Any uninsured person entering a four-year college or university in North Carolina for the first time, in addition to, any uninsured adults attending any other post-high school educational institutions, i.e. community colleges and technical schools because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Two doses of measles containing vaccine is required by law for all persons born in 1957 or later entering a North Carolina college/university*** for the first time on or after July 1, 1994. ❖ Two doses of mumps are also recommended and available for all uninsured adult students attending post-high school educational institutions (i.e. community colleges and technical schools). <p><u>LHD only:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ All uninsured women ages 19-44 years.
MMRV	≥ 12 months through 12 years	VFC ONLY	
RSV Beyfortus 50 mg	Infants weighing <5 kg: 50 mg dose	VFC ONLY	<p>Seasonal administration (October 1st through March 31st).</p> <p>All infants younger than age 8 months during their first RSV season and in some children at high risk of severe disease during their second RSV season.</p> <p>Dosing for Children at High Risk During Second RSV Season Children ages 8-19 months who remain vulnerable to severe RSV disease when entering their second RSV season should receive a dose of BEYFORTUS™.</p>
RSV Beyfortus 100 mg	Infants weighing ≥5 kg: 100 mg dose	VFC ONLY	<p>Seasonal administration (October 1st through March 31st).</p> <p>All infants younger than age 8 months during their first RSV season and in some children at high risk of severe disease during their second RSV season.</p> <p>Dosing for Children at High Risk During Second RSV Season Children ages 8-19 months who remain vulnerable to severe RSV disease when entering their second RSV season should receive a dose of BEYFORTUS™.</p>
RSV Maternal ABRYSVO™	Pregnant individuals < 19 years	VFC ONLY	During 32 through 36 weeks gestation; Seasonal administration (September 1st through January 31st).
IPV-Polio	≥ 2 months through 17 years	VFC ONLY	
Pneumococcal Conjugate vaccine (PCV15, PCV20)	≥ 2 through 59 months	VFC ONLY	
Pneumococcal Conjugate vaccine	≥ 60 months through 18 years	VFC ONLY	Children >60 months through 18 years with certain high-risk conditions.

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Pneumococcal Polysaccharide 23-valent (PPSV23)	≥ 2 years through 18 years	VFC ONLY	Children > 2 years through 18 years with certain high-risk conditions.
Rotavirus	≥ 6 weeks through 7 months	VFC ONLY	
Td or Tdap Pediatric use	≥ 7 years through 18 years	VFC ONLY	When considering the use of Td and Tdap interchangeably, ensure state immunization requirements for school/college entry immunization have been met with the appropriate vaccine. See the August 1, 2023 Memo: Catch-Up Immunization Schedule and NC Administrative Code 10A NCAC 41A .0401 for more information.
Td or Tdap Adult use	Certain adults (19 and older) without insurance	UNINSURED ADULT USE	One or more doses of state-supplied Td/Tdap can be given to any uninsured adult 19 years of age or older as indicated by ACIP at the local health department or an VFC enrolled FQHC, or RHC. Additionally, one or more doses as indicated by ACIP of state supplied Tdap are available for uninsured pregnant women 19 years of age and older being served in any capacity at the LHD, or an enrolled FQHC, or RHC.
Varicella (Chickenpox)	≥ 12 months through 18 years	VFC ONLY	
Varicella (Chickenpox)	Certain adults, (19 and older) without insurance	UNINSURED FEMALE ADULT USE	<u>LHD Only:</u> ♦ One dose of varicella vaccine is available for uninsured, unvaccinated women ages 19 through 44 years of age at the LHD.

VFC- Vaccines for Children: Children birth through 18 years of age that meet at least one of the following criteria are eligible for VFC vaccine:

- Medicaid enrolled - a child who is eligible or enrolled in the Medicaid program.
- Uninsured - a child who has no medical insurance coverage
- American Indian or Alaskan Native
- Underinsured (Can only be served by deputized providers such as LHD/FQHC/RHC). Underinsured includes:
 - Children who have commercial (private) health insurance but the coverage does not include vaccines,
 - Children whose insurance covers only selected vaccines (VFC-eligible for non-covered vaccines only),
 - Children whose insurance caps vaccine coverage at a certain amount - once that coverage amount is reached, these children are categorized as underinsured

Note: Children whose health insurance covers vaccinations are not eligible for VFC vaccines, even when a claim for the cost of the vaccine and its administration would be denied for payment by the insurance carrier because the plan's deductible had not been met or because the insurance did not cover the total cost of the vaccine

Health Care Sharing Ministries (HCSM)

HCSMs are nonprofit alternatives to purchasing health insurance from private, for-profit insurers. VFC eligibility depends primarily on recognition of the plan as insurance by the state. A child with this type of plan should be considered:

- Uninsured if the plan is not recognized as insurance by the North Carolina Department of Insurance (NCDOI)
- Insured if plan is recognized by the NCDOI and covers all ACIP-recommended vaccines
- Underinsured if plan is recognized by the NCDOI and does not cover all ACIP-recommended vaccines
Providers are responsible for verifying the insurance plan with NCDOI prior to administration of VFC vaccine

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****ACIP Recommendation Highlights** The ACIP recommendations for each vaccine are located on the CDC website at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/index.html>. Full and final recommendations are published as MMWR Recommendations and Reports. Updates are often sent out as Provisional Recommendations with the most pertinent information included before the final recommendations are released. There is also separate documentation for **Contraindication/Precautions** for all vaccines on the CDC web site at: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/general-recs/contraindications.html>.

***Students attending colleges within the North Carolina Community College System are exempt from North Carolina Immunization Law for college/university entry. However, some programs at community colleges, such as medical programs, may have requirements specific to their program, but this does not allow them to receive state supplied vaccine unless it is specifically stated in the coverage criteria.

******LHD/FQHC/RHC only:** Persons covered by the Family Planning Medicaid Program (Be Smart) are considered uninsured and may receive certain state- supplied vaccines as noted in this coverage criteria for uninsured adults if receiving services at a Local Health Department, Federally Qualified Health Center, or Rural Health Clinic. Unaccompanied minors (through 18 years of age) without proof of insurance presenting to a local health department Title X clinic can also be vaccinated with VFC vaccines.

Local health departments (LHD) who are considering using VFC vaccine for offsite clinics, must contact the Immunization Branch for specific guidance prior to scheduling the clinic. Proper storage and handling is critical at all times.

Unless specifically stated above, no NCIP vaccine may be administered to an insured individual unless the patient is an underinsured child at an FQHC, RHC, LHD, or deputized provider.

VFC vaccine cannot be used for allergy skin testing prior to vaccination.

******Bridge Access Program:** The Bridge Access Program provides the 2023-2024 COVID-19 vaccines at no cost for uninsured and underinsured adults. This program allows providers who see uninsured and underinsured adults 19 years of age and older to continue receiving government-funded COVID-19 vaccine following commercialization. Providers that serve uninsured and underinsured adults, such as local health departments, federally qualified health centers, rural health clinics, and free and charitable clinics must enroll in the NC Bridge Access Program to provide state-supplied vaccines to uninsured/underinsured adults even if you are currently enrolled in the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. This program requires a signed NC Bridge Access Agreement. The NC Bridge Access Program is expected to run through December 2024.

For Bridge Access Program:

- ❖ Must be 19 years of age or older AND
- ❖ Uninsured: No insurance, Medicaid, or Medicare
- ❖ Underinsured: Has insurance, but the insurance does not cover COVID-19 vaccines; a person whose medical insurance does not provide first-dollar coverage (i.e., copay-free coverage) of COVID-19 vaccinations
- ❖ Providers must permit patients to attest to a lack of insurance at the point of care.

Providers cannot turn any patient away due to inability to pay or to verify insurance status.