

Vaccines for Children Program (VFC)

Information for Parents from the N.C. Division of Public Health



Get Help Paying for YOUR Child's Vaccines!

How can I get help paying for my child's vaccines?

Since 1994, parents have been protecting their children through the VFC Program. This program provides free vaccines to children whose parents need help paying for them.

Is my child eligible for the VFC Program?

Your child is eligible if it is before his or her 19th birthday, and if he or she is one of the following:

- ◆ Medicaid-eligible
- ◆ American Indian or Alaska Native
- ◆ Uninsured
- ◆ Underinsured

What do you mean by "underinsured?"

Underinsured means your child has health insurance, but it won't cover the vaccine(s) because:

- ◆ It doesn't cover any vaccines.
- ◆ It doesn't cover certain vaccines.
- ◆ It covers vaccines, but it has a fixed dollar limit or cap for vaccines. Once that fixed dollar amount has been reached, your child is eligible.

Where can I go to get my child vaccinated?

Ask your doctor if he or she is a VFC vaccine provider. There are many doctors enrolled in the VFC Program in North Carolina.

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. There are two kinds of fees doctors can charge:

- ◆ **Administration Fee.** 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.
- ◆ **Office Visit Fee.** There can be a fee for the office visit, unless it's an immunization-only visit. Doctors must allow immunization-only visits for their patients.

My child's doctor isn't a VFC provider. Where can I take my child for vaccines?

If your child's doctor isn't a VFC provider, you can take your child to one of the following places to get VFC vaccines:

- ◆ A doctor that is a VFC provider
- ◆ Local Health Department
- ◆ Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC)
- ◆ Rural Health Center (RHC)

For more information about the VFC Program, including a list of locations for local health departments, FQHCs and RHCs, log on to the N.C. Immunization Branch's VFC webpage at immunize.nc.gov/family/nc_immnz_program.htm.



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