



## Department of Health

ANDREW M. CUOMO  
Governor

HOWARD A. ZUCKER, M.D., J.D.  
Commissioner

SALLY DRESLIN, M.S., R.N.  
Executive Deputy Commissioner

July 20, 2015

Dear Colleague,

I am writing to announce major changes to adult vaccine eligibility in New York State outside of New York City. The Adult Hepatitis Vaccination, Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Immunization, and Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) for Adult Post-Secondary Students Programs are being combined, expanded, and renamed as the **Vaccines for Adults (VFA) Program**. All uninsured and underinsured adults, regardless of hepatitis A or B risk factors, migrant status, or post-secondary institution enrollment, will now be eligible to receive the following vaccines at sites enrolled in the VFA Program:

- Hepatitis A vaccine
- Hepatitis B vaccine
- Hepatitis A/B vaccine (Twinrix®)
- Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine
- Measles, mumps and rubella vaccine (MMR)
- Meningococcal vaccine
- Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV13)
- Pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPSV23)
- Tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis vaccine (Tdap)
- Tetanus and diphtheria toxoids (Td)
- Influenza vaccine (during influenza season)

As previously, fully insured post-secondary students of any age who require MMR vaccine to comply with Public Health Law Title VI Section 2165 may receive MMR vaccine only through the VFA program.

These vaccines will be available on an ongoing basis. Providers should aim to keep a two-month supply of vaccine in stock at all times. As you place your first order following the VFA expansion, order as much vaccine as you think your site will need for the next two months. If you need additional doses, you will be able to re-order monthly. Future orders will be assessed based on the doses administered and doses remaining in your inventory.

VFA providers are now required, as a condition of participation, to ask all VFA vaccine recipients for informed consent to report their vaccine(s) to the New York State Immunization Information System (NYSIIS). VFA providers must report to NYSIIS all doses of VFA vaccine administered to adults, upon consent of the patient. The attached **NYSIIS Guide for Adult Immunizations** contains detailed instructions on how to manually report adult immunizations, including eligibility status, to NYSIIS. Effective April 2015, the **VFA Monthly Doses Administered Report** shall **only** be used to report doses administered to adults that did **not** consent to NYSIIS reporting.

All VFA doses administered reports, whether in NYSIIS or on paper, **must** include patient eligibility for VFA vaccines, i.e., uninsured or underinsured. Please see the attached updated **Eligibility Criteria** and attached optional **Eligibility Screening Tool** to assist with determining patients' eligibility and utilize the **Guide to Health Insurance Coverage for Adult Vaccines** to determine which patients do and do not qualify as underinsured. If your site uses an Electronic Medical Record that data-exchanges with NYSIIS, please ensure that eligibility status is reported for all public vaccine doses reported in NYSIIS by your site. If you have questions about data exchange, please contact NYSIIS at (518) 473-2839.

If you have more than one PIN for vaccine ordering, **please ensure that all vaccine orders are placed under the correct PIN, and never order vaccines for adult patients using a Vaccines for Children (VFC) PIN.** If your practice is not enrolled in VFC and serves children who are uninsured, underinsured, American Indian or Alaska Native, or enrolled in Medicaid or Child Health Plus, I urge you to call 1-800-KIDSHOT (1-800-543-7468) to obtain information about how to enroll in VFC.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Rausch-Phung, M.D., M.P.H.  
Director, Bureau of Immunization  
New York State Department of Health

Attachments:

1. NYSIIS Guide for Adult Immunizations
2. VFA Monthly Doses Administered Report
3. Eligibility Criteria
4. Eligibility Screening Tool
5. Health Reform and the New York State Vaccines for Adults Program