

Questions Parents Ask About Vaccines and Insurance

Does my insurance cover vaccines and immunizations?

First, call your employer benefits office, health plan, or insurance company to find out if your family's immunizations are paid for by your insurance plan. Many health insurance plans focus on primary care and prevention. These plans often cover immunization services.



What are the free vaccines that the health department gives out?

There are no free vaccines. Vaccines are purchased with federal tax dollars through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program to make vaccines available at no charge to eligible children. The goal of the VFC program is to provide immunization services for children who would otherwise be unable to pay for the vaccine or the administration of the vaccine. Many health departments and doctors' offices may charge a fee to administer these vaccines.

Who is eligible to receive VFC vaccine?

Children birth through 18 years of age are eligible to receive VFC vaccine if they:

- Are Medicaid eligible
- Have no health insurance
- Have health insurance that does not cover the cost of vaccines
- Have health insurance and have exceeded their annual cap for preventive care
- Are American Indian or Alaskan Native

If you are unsure if your child is eligible to receive VFC vaccine, talk to your doctor or health department.

Does the health department still give immunizations to families with insurance?

Call your local health department to find out if they provide services to families with insurance and if there will be a charge for these services.



Additional Resources

- Vaccines for Children Program (VFC):
<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/vfc/index.html>
- Every Child by Two (ECBT):
<http://www.ecbt.org/parents/payforvaccine.cfm>
- Michigan Department of Community Health:
www.michigan.gov/immunize