Funding for the VCF Program

The Vaccine for Children Program is approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and allocated through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). CDC buys vaccines at a discount and distributes them to grantees—i.e., state health departments and certain local and territorial public health agencies—which in turn distribute them at no charge to those private physicians' offices and public health clinics registered as VFC providers.

Teens need vaccines, too!

Be sure your older children are up to date on all vaccines **before they turn 19,** because they may still be able to receive VFC vaccines.

Getting caught up on vaccines is as much a part of the school year as for exams or going to prom. If you have a high schooler getting ready to graduate and move away, be sure to get to the doctor now before the big move.

Websites

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/vfc/

US Virgin Islands Department of Health
doh.vi.gov

US Virgin Islands Department of Health Immunization Program
doh.vi.gov/programs/immunizations

US Virgin Islands Vaccine For Children Program
doh.vi.gov/programs/immunizations/vaccine-children-program-providers

For more information

If you have questions about the **Vaccine for Children Program,** call your healthcare provider or the US Virgin Islands **Department of Health – Immunization Program St. Thomas and St. John (340) 776-1113, St. Croix (340) 718-1311.**

VACCINES FOR CHILDREN PROGRAM

Vaccines at No Cost for Eligible Children

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

What is the Vaccines for Children Program?

The **Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program** is a federal program that provides vaccines to eligible children at no cost. The federal government pays for the vaccines. The doctors and clinics enrolled in the VFC Program give the vaccines to children who qualify. Physicians may charge administrative or office visit fees.

Is my child eligible for the VFC Program?

Your child is eligible **from birth through 18 years of age** to get the vaccine and if he or she is:

- on Medicaid or eligible for Medicaid
- do not have health insurance
- are American Indian or Alaskan Native
- are under-insured:
  - insurance does not cover vaccines
  - insurance covers selected vaccines (eligible only for those vaccines not covered)

How much will I have to pay?

All vaccines are free through the VFC Program. There may be other costs to your VFC provider visit:

- Doctors may charge an administrative fee to give a shot. However, VCF vaccines cannot be denied to an eligible child if the family cannot afford the fee.

- There may be a fee for the office visit.

Where can I find a VFC Program provider?

Ask your healthcare provider if they are enrolled in the program. If your healthcare provider is not enrolled ask them to sign up by contacting the US Virgin Islands Department of Health (DOH).

To get your child vaccinated, you can go to any of the following locations:

- DOH Public Health Clinics (Maternal and Child Health and Community Health Clinics)
- **Federally Qualified Health Centers FQHC)**
  St. Thomas East End Medical Center Corp.
  Frederiksted Health Care Inc.
- Private Healthcare Providers
- For a list of providers in the territory go to https://doh.vi.gov/programs/immunizations/vaccine-children-program-providers.

Vaccines offered through the program

Vaccine preventable diseases are serious, but they are preventable. With vaccines, children may be protected against:

- Diphtheria
- Tetanus (Lockjaw)
- Pertussis (Whooping Cough)
- Haemophilus Influenzae Type B (Hib)
- Hepatitis A
- Hepatitis B
- Human Papillomavirus (HPV)
- Influenza (Flu)
- Measles
- Mumps
- Rubella (German Measles)
- Meningococcal Disease
- Pneumococcal Disease
- Polio
- Rotavirus
- Varicella (Chickenpox)