

VACCINES FOR CHILDREN



Dallas County
Health and Human Services

SPRING 2019 - NEWSLETTER

NIIW

Apr 27 - May 4, 2019



This year marks the 25th anniversary of National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW). From April 27–May 4, 2019.

You want to do what is best for your children. You know about the importance of car seats, baby gates, and other ways to keep them safe. But, did you know that one of the best ways to protect your children is to make sure they have all of their vaccinations?

Immunizations can save your child's life. Because of advances in medical science, your child can be protected against more diseases than ever before. Some diseases that once injured or killed thousands of children are no longer common in the U.S. – primarily due to safe and effective

vaccines.

Polio is one example of the great impact that vaccines have had in the United States. Polio was once America's most feared disease, causing death and paralysis across the country, but thanks to vaccination the United States has been polio-free since 1979.

Vaccination is very safe and effective. Vaccines are only given to children after careful review by scientists, doctors, and healthcare professionals. Vaccine side effects are almost always mild

such as redness or swelling at the site of the shot, but this is minimal compared to the pain, discomfort, and risk of injury and death from the diseases these vaccines prevent. Serious side effects following vaccination, such as severe allergic reaction, are very rare. The disease-prevention benefits of getting vaccinated are much greater than the possible side effects for almost all children.

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Immunization protects others you care about. Children in the U.S. still get vaccine-preventable diseases. In fact, we have seen resurgences of measles and whooping cough (pertussis) over the past few years. For example, in 2014, there were 667 cases of measles in 27 states, the greatest number of cases since measles was eliminated in 2000. The following year saw measles cases as well. During 2015, 147 people were part of a large, multi-state measles outbreak linked to an amusement park in California. Almost one in 10 people who became sick with measles in this outbreak were babies too young to be vaccinated. While some babies are too young to be protected by vaccination, others may not be able to receive certain vaccinations due to severe allergies, weakened immune systems from conditions like leukemia, or other reasons. To help keep them safe, it is important that you and your children who are able to get vaccinated are fully immunized. This not only protects your family, but also helps prevent the spread of these diseases to your friends and loved ones.

Immunizations can save your family time and money. A child with a vaccine-preventable disease can be denied attendance at schools or daycare facilities. Some vaccine-preventable diseases can result in prolonged disabilities and can take a financial toll because of lost time at work, medical bills or long-term disability care. In contrast, getting vaccinated against these diseases is a good investment and usually covered by insurance.

Measles

Make Sure Your Child is Fully Immunized!



Measles is a highly contagious respiratory disease caused by a virus. Measles starts with a fever, runny nose, cough, red eyes, and sore throat, and is followed by a rash that spreads all over the body. Measles can be serious for young children. It can lead to pneumonia, encephalitis (swelling of the brain), and death. Measles spreads through the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes. It is so contagious that if one person has it, 90% of the people around him or her will also become infected if they are not protected.

You can protect your child against measles with a combination vaccine that provides protection against three diseases: measles, mumps, and rubella

Vaccines for Children Protecting America's children every day

The Vaccines for Children (VFC) program helps ensure that all children have a better chance of getting their recommended vaccines. VFC has helped prevent disease and save lives.



CDC estimates that vaccination of children born between 1994 and 2018 will:

- prevent **419 million illnesses**
(26.8 million hospitalizations)  more than the current population of the entire U.S.A.
- help avoid **936,000 deaths**  greater than the population of Seattle, WA
- save nearly **\$1.9 trillion in total societal costs**
(that includes \$406 billion in direct costs)  more than \$5,000 for each American



U.S. Department of
Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention

www.cdc.gov/features/vfcprogram

The Vaccines for Children program is a federally funded program that provides vaccines at no cost to children from low-income families. Immunization protects future generations. Vaccines have reduced and, in some cases, eliminated many diseases that killed or severely disabled people just a few generations ago. If we continue vaccinating now, and vaccinating completely, parents in the future may be able to trust that some diseases of today will no longer be around to harm their children in the future.

For more information about the importance of infant immunization, visit CDC's vaccine website for parents.

(MMR). The MMR vaccine is proven to be very safe and effective. CDC recommends that children get two doses:

- the first dose at 12 through 15 months of age, and
- the second dose before entering school at 4 through 6 years of age.

Teens and adults should also be up to date on their MMR vaccination.

From January 1 to April 11, 2019, 555 individual cases of measles have been confirmed in 12 states. The states that have reported cases to CDC are California, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Texas, and Washington.

Six outbreaks (defined as 3 or more cases) have been reported in 2019 in the following jurisdictions; New York State, Rockland County, New York City, Washington, Texas, Illinois and California.

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In a given year, more measles cases can occur for any of the following reasons:

- an increase in the number of travelers who get measles abroad and bring it into the U.S., and/or
- further spread of measles in U.S. communities with pockets of unvaccinated people.

<https://www.cdc.gov/measles/cases-outbreaks.html>

In Texas, measles (suspected or confirmed) is required to be reported immediately to your local health department or your DSHS regional office (contact information for each county can be found at: <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/idcu/investigation/conditions/contacts/>).

Routine and Emergency Storage and Handling Plan

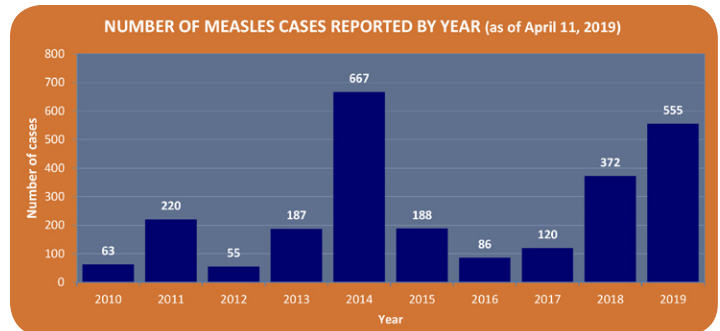
The DSHS Immunization Unit has developed Vaccine Management Plan templates (E11-14498) for vaccine management, including routine vaccine storage and handling and what to do with TVFC/ASN vaccine in the event of an emergency (such as loss of power, unit failure, or a natural disaster).

This document, or a similar one developed by the site (containing all the same elements), is required at all TVFC/ASN-enrolled sites and must be reviewed and signed at least annually or more frequently if staff changes occur or other changes are necessary. Clinic staff are required to annually verify their vaccine management plans and confirm that their identified backup site is still able and willing to function as their emergency site.

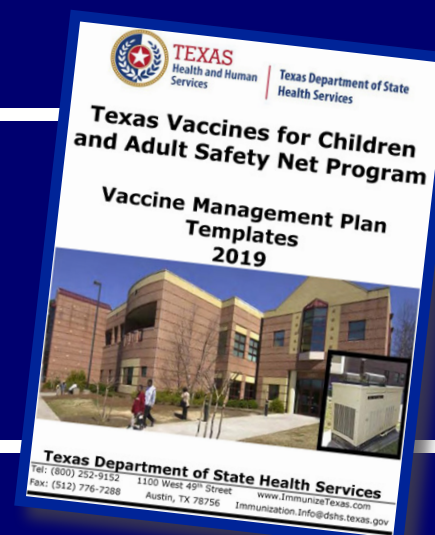
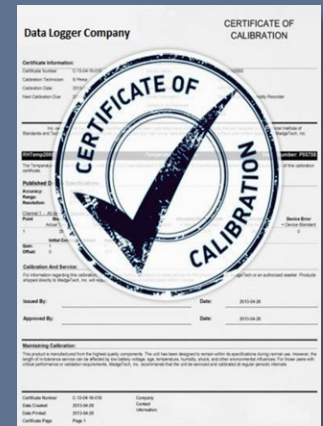
During compliance site visits and unannounced storage and handling visits, this document will be reviewed for completeness. The completed document must be posted on or near the refrigerator/freezer units that contain TVFC/ASN vaccine so clinic staff are required to verify their vaccine management plans annually and confirm that their identified backup site is still able and willing to function as their emergency site.

The vaccine management plan must include the following:

- The names and phone numbers of emergency contacts,
- A plan for how to move vaccines to ensure proper cold chain is monitored and maintained, and
- The address of an alternate location where vaccines will be temporarily stored.



Ensure your data loggers have a valid and current certificate of calibration!



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ImmTrac2 Texas Immunization Registry

The Texas Immunization Registry is a free service that puts Texas families' immunization records at the fingertips of their health care providers, no matter how many times they change doctors or relocate.

More than one million adult immunization records will remain accessible in the Texas Immunization Registry.

In 2011, The Texas Immunization Registry changed from a child-only immunization registry to a lifetime registry, allowing Texans age 18 years or older to store their shot records.

When an individual provides written consent to retain their childhood immunization records within the registry before their 26th birthday, their records remain for their lifetime. If consent is not obtained prior to the individual's 26th birthday, the immunization records are automatically purged from the registry, as required by legislative rules.

First Responders

It is important first responders stay current with their immunizations and register to have their records stored in ImmTrac2. In an emergency, you will only need your ImmTrac2 client ID number to obtain your complete immunization records. Talk to your health care provider about vaccines you may need and how to register.

DSHS Immunization Newsletter Subscriptions

<https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/immunize/Immunization-News/The-TVFC/ASN-Digest/>
<https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/immunize/Immunization-News/The-Upshot/>

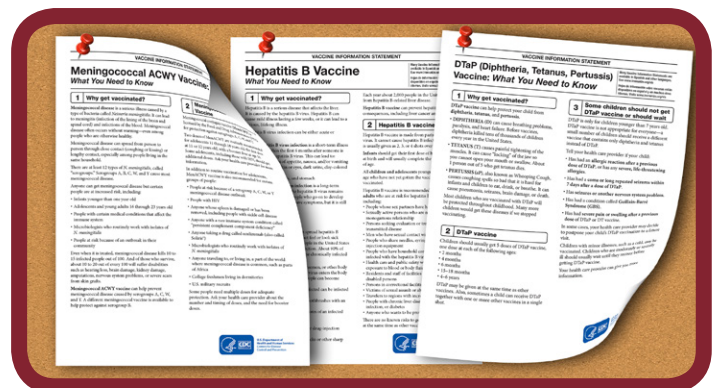
Reminders

DSHS issued a policy requiring all TVFC-enrolled sites to carry at least one dose of pediatric DT, pediatric Td and pediatric PPSV23 vaccines. After careful analysis, DSHS is retracting this requirement. Effective immediately, TVFC-enrolled sites are no longer required to stock these vaccines unless the clinic population determines the need to continue.

Sites that currently have a dose of pediatric DT or pediatric Td or pediatric PPSV23, should continue with proper storage and handling techniques as published in Chapter 3 of the 2019 TVFC & ASN Provider Manual.

VIS Updates

DTaP (8/24/18) | Hepatitis B (10/12/18) | Meningococcal ACWY (8/24/2018)



VACCINES FOR CHILDREN PROGRAM

VFC Clinic Supervisor
Sabrina Moats, BSN, RN
(214) 819-2021

ImmTrac Outreach Specialists

Charles Williams
(214) 819-2847
Elizabeth Serrato
(214) 819-2821

VFC Community Representative

Dawn Walker, LVN
(214) 819-2018
David Hawkins
(214) 819-1925
Margot Gambles
(214) 819-1903

Vaccine Clerks

Nardos Naffe
(214) 819-2166
Jaynesia Shaw
(214) 819-2124

TMF Follow-up Personnel

Jean Wilson
(214) 819-1926

Receptionist

Mireya Medrano
(214) 819-1903

Parts or full contents used within this newsletter were extracted from the publications of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Texas Department of State Health Services website.



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Dallas County Health and Human Services
2377 N Stemmons Freeway, Dallas, TX 75207-2710
☎ (214) 819-2000

Philip Huang, MD, MPH
Director / Health Authority

Christopher Perkins, DO, MPH
Medical Director