

**NORTH CAROLINA IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM (NCIP) COVERAGE
CRITERIA FOR ALL CHILDREN PRESENT IN NORTH CAROLINA**

Effective: January 2023

The purpose of this document is to distinguish which cohorts of persons, present in North Carolina, are eligible for vaccine from the North Carolina Immunization Program (NCIP). NCIP vaccine is available for eligible children through the age of 18 in compliance with recommendations made by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. Exceptions for adult vaccine usages are noted below. Additional exceptions for outbreak control purposes (if applicable) can be found in the NCIP Coverage Criteria Supplement. ACIP recommends certain vaccines for certain cohorts who are not covered by NCIP vaccine. Health care providers must use privately purchased vaccine for those cohorts who wish to have vaccine and are not covered by this coverage criteria. Questions about current recommendations for each vaccine can be found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/index.html>. Local Health Departments (LHD); Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) and Rural Health Clinics (RHC) are noted throughout when there is vaccine usage specific to their facilities.

| VACCINE | AGES COVERED | ELIGIBILITY | CRITERIA FOR NCIP VACCINE USAGE |
|--|--------------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| DT Pediatric | ≥2 months through 6 years | UNIVERSAL | DT Pediatric can be ordered for any child, >2 months through 6 years, that has a known medical contraindication to any pertussis containing vaccine. |
| DTaP | ≥2 months through 6 years | VFC ONLY | |
| DTaP, Hep B, and polio combination (Pediarix®) | ≥ 2 months through 6 years | VFC ONLY | |
| DTaP, polio, and Hib combination (Pentacel®) | ≥ 2 months through 4 years | VFC ONLY | |
| DTaP, polio, Hib, and Hep B combination (Vaxelis™) | ≥ 6 weeks through 4 years | VFC ONLY | |
| DTaP/IPV combination (Kinrix®; Quadracel®) | ≥ 4 years through 6 years | VFC ONLY | Only to be used for children > 4 years through 6 years of age. Kinrix as the 5th dose in the DTaP series, & as the 4th in the IPV series Quadracel as the 5th dose in the DTaP series, & as the 4th or 5th dose in the IPV series. |
| Hepatitis A Pediatric use | 12 months through 18 years | VFC ONLY | Hepatitis A vaccine may be given to children 12 months through 18 years of age who are VFC-eligible only. Hepatitis A vaccine may be given to VFC -eligible infants 6 months through 11 months of age who are traveling to an area of the world except the United States, Canada, western Europe and Scandinavia, Japan, New Zealand, and Australia. |
| Hepatitis B Pediatric use | Birth through 18 years | VFC ONLY | The birth dose of Hepatitis B vaccine is available universally for newborns at VFC enrolled birthing hospitals. Other doses of hepatitis B* vaccine may be given to children through 18 years of age who are VFC-eligible only. LHD Only: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Children through 18 years of age, regardless of insurance status who are household, sexual, or needle sharing contacts of an acute or chronic Hepatitis B infected person may receive Hepatitis B vaccine at the LHD. All household, sexual, or needle sharing contacts of an acute or chronic Hepatitis B infected person must be referred to the LHD for testing and vaccination. <i>*Hepilisav-B® (two-dose series can be used for eligible individuals 18 years of age and older).</i> |
| Hepatitis B Pediatric Product (Engerix-B®) (Recombivax®) (Heplisav- B®) | Certain adults 19 years of age | UNINSURED 19 YEARS OF AGE | Any uninsured adult 19 years of age may receive state-supplied Hep B if the first dose of Hep B is administered before the 19th birthday. The series must be complete before the 20th birthday if using state- supplied vaccine. LHD Only: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Uninsured immigrants with refugee status who are from endemic countries who are 19 years of age may receive Hepatitis B vaccine at the LHD. All immigrants with refugee status must be referred to the LHD for testing and vaccination. ♦ Adults 19 years of age, regardless of insurance status, who are household, sexual or needle sharing contacts of an acute or chronic Hepatitis B infected person may receive Hepatitis B vaccine at the LHD. All household, sexual, or needle sharing contacts of an acute or chronic Hepatitis B infected person must be referred to the LHD for testing/vaccination. |

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|--|--|------------------------|---|
| Hepatitis B Adult use | Certain adults ≥ 20 years may receive state- supplied Hep B | ADULT USE | <u>LHD Only:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Individuals who are ≥20 years of age, regardless of insurance status, who are household, sexual or needle sharing contacts of an acute or chronic Hepatitis B infected person may receive Hepatitis B* vaccine at the LHD. All household, sexual, or needle sharing contacts of an acute or chronic Hepatitis B infected person must be referred to the LHD for testing and vaccination. ❖ Uninsured immigrants with refugee status who are from endemic countries who are ≥ 20 years of age may receive Hepatitis B vaccine at the LHD. All immigrants with refugee status must be referred to the LHD for testing and vaccination. <p><i>*Heplisav-B® (two-dose series can be used)</i></p> |
| HepA/HepB Combination (Twinrix®) | ≥ 18 years | UNINSURED ADULT USE | <u>LHD/FQHC/RHC Only:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Any uninsured adult who meets one or more of the ACIP recommended coverage groups can receive a three-dose series of the combination Hep A/Hep B vaccine at the LHD, FQHC, or RHC. <p>State-supplied Hep A/Hep B vaccine cannot be used for the accelerated schedule, four dose series or for persons with a documented history of a completed hepatitis A or B series.</p> |
| Hib | ≥ 2 months through 4 years | VFC ONLY | Certain high-risk children >59 months through 18 years of age, who are not appropriately vaccinated, may receive one dose. |
| 9vHPV (Gardasil® 9) | Females and males 9 through 18 years | VFC ONLY | State-supplied Gardasil® (9-valent) vaccines for HPV are available for males and females 9 through 18 years of age. The series must be completed prior to the 19th birthday. |
| Influenza Pediatric use | ≥ 6 months through 18 years | VFC ONLY | |
| Influenza Adult use IIV4 (Fluarix®, Fluzone®, FluLaval®, & Flucelvax® 0.5 mL pre- filled syringes only) | Certain adults, (19 and older) without insurance | UNINSURED ADULT USE | <u>LHD/FQHC/RHC Only:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Non-Medicaid, uninsured women who are pregnant during flu season, and receiving services at the LHD, FQHC, or RHC. ❖ Persons enrolled in the Be Smart family planning program**** receiving services at the LHD, FQHC, or RHC. <p>*Please refer to the seasonal influenza memo.</p> |
| Meningococcal Conjugate (Menactra®) (Menveo®) (MenQuadfi™) | ≥ 2 months through 10 years | VFC ONLY | Available for children with high-risk conditions. Menactra® is licensed starting at 9 months of age. Menveo® starts at 2 months of age. MenQuadfi™ starts at 2 years of age. |
| Meningococcal Conjugate (Menactra®) (Menveo®) (MenQuadfi™) | 11 through 18 years | VFC ONLY | |
| Meningococcal Serogroup B Bexsero® Trumenba® | 10 through 18 years | VFC ONLY | MenB vaccines are recommended & available for children ≥10 through 18 years of age at increased risk of disease. MenB may be administered to adolescents aged 16–18 years of age who are not at increased risk for meningococcal disease based on the provider’s clinical discretion. Follow ACIP guidance. |

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|--|---|---------------------|--|
| MMR Pediatric use | ≥ 12 months through 18 years | VFC ONLY | MMR vaccine may be given to children 12 months through 18 years of age who are VFC- eligible only. MMR vaccine may be given to VFC-eligible infants 6 months through 11 months of age who will be traveling internationally. |
| MMR Adult use | Certain adults (19 and older) without insurance | UNINSURED ADULT USE | <p>One dose of MMR vaccine is available for:</p> <p><u>LHD only:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Uninsured immigrants with refugee status of any age without documentation of a prior MMR may receive MMR at the LHD. <p><u>LHD/FOHC/RHC only:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ All uninsured susceptible persons without documentation of a prior MMR may receive MMR at the LHD, FQHC, or RHC. <p>Two doses of MMR vaccine are available for:</p> <p>Any uninsured person entering a four-year college or university in North Carolina for the first time, in addition to, any uninsured adults attending any other post-high school educational institutions, i.e. community colleges and technical schools because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Two doses of measles containing vaccine is required by law for all persons born in 1957 or later entering a North Carolina college/university*** for the first time on or after July 1, 1994. ✦ Two doses of mumps are also recommended and available for all uninsured adult students attending post-high school educational institutions (i.e. community colleges and technical schools). <p><u>LHD only:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ All uninsured women ages 19-44 years. |
| MMRV | ≥ 12 months through 12 years | VFC ONLY | |
| IPV-Polio | ≥ 2 months through 17 years | VFC ONLY | |
| Pneumococcal Conjugate vaccine | ≥ 2 through 59 months | VFC ONLY | |
| Pneumococcal Conjugate vaccine | ≥ 60 months through 18 years | VFC ONLY | Children >60 months through 18 years with certain high-risk conditions. |
| Pneumococcal Polysaccharide 23-valent (PPSV23) | ≥ 2 years through 18 years | VFC ONLY | Children > 2 years through 18 years with certain high-risk conditions. |
| Rotavirus | ≥ 6 weeks through 7 months | VFC ONLY | |
| Td or Tdap Pediatric use | ≥ 7 years through 18 years | VFC ONLY | When considering the use of Td and Tdap interchangeably, ensure state immunization requirements for school/college entry immunization have been met with the appropriate vaccine. |

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|---------------------------|---|----------------------------------|---|
| Td or Tdap Adult use | Certain adults (19 and older) without insurance | UNINSURED ADULT USE | One or more doses of state-supplied Td/Tdap can be given to any uninsured adult 19 years of age or older as indicated by ACIP at the local health department or an VFC enrolled FQHC, or RHC. <i>Additionally, one or more doses as indicated by ACIP of state supplied Tdap are available for uninsured pregnant women 19 years of age and older being served in any capacity at the LHD, or an enrolled FQHC, or RHC.</i> |
| Varicella (Chickenpox) | ≥ 12 months through 18 years | VFC ONLY | |
| Varicella (Chickenpox) | Certain adults, (19 and older) without insurance | UNINSURED FEMALE ADULT USE | <u>LHD Only:</u> ♦ One dose of varicella vaccine is available for uninsured, unvaccinated women ages 19 through 44 years of age at the LHD. |

VFC- Vaccines for Children: Children birth through 18 years of age that meet at least one of the following criteria are eligible for VFC vaccine:

- Medicaid enrolled - a child who is eligible or enrolled in the Medicaid program.
- Uninsured - a child who has no medical insurance coverage
- American Indian or Alaskan Native
- Underinsured (Can only be served by deputized providers such as LHD/FQHC/RHC). Underinsured includes:
 - Children who have commercial (private) health insurance but the coverage does not include vaccines,
 - Children whose insurance covers only selected vaccines (VFC-eligible for non-covered vaccines only),
 - Children whose insurance caps vaccine coverage at a certain amount - once that coverage amount is reached, these children are categorized as underinsured

Children who are covered by North Carolina Health Choice (NCHC) are considered insured, with one exception: NCHC children who are American Indian or Alaskan Native are eligible for VFC vaccines. **Note:** Children whose health insurance covers vaccinations are not eligible for VFC vaccines, even when a claim for the cost of the vaccine and its administration would be denied for payment by the insurance carrier because the plan's deductible had not been met or because the insurance did not cover the total cost of the vaccine

Health Care Sharing Ministries (HCSM)

HCSMs are nonprofit alternatives to purchasing health insurance from private, for-profit insurers. VFC eligibility depends primarily on recognition of the plan as insurance by the state. A child with this type of plan should be considered:

- Uninsured if the plan is not recognized as insurance by the North Carolina Department of Insurance (NCDOI)
- Insured if plan is recognized by the NCDOI and covers all ACIP-recommended vaccines
- Underinsured if plan is recognized by the NCDOI and does not cover all ACIP-recommended vaccines
Providers are responsible for verifying the insurance plan with NCDOI prior to administration of VFC vaccine

****ACIP Recommendation Highlights** The ACIP recommendations for each vaccine are located on the CDC website at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/index.html>. Full and final recommendations are published as MMWR Recommendations and Reports. Updates are often sent out as Provisional Recommendations with the most pertinent information included before the final recommendations are released. There is also separate documentation for **Contraindication/Precautions** for all vaccines on the CDC web site at: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/general-recs/contraindications.html> .

***Students attending colleges within the North Carolina Community College System are exempt from North Carolina Immunization Law for college/university entry. However, some programs at community colleges, such as medical programs, may have requirements specific to their program, but this does not allow them to receive state supplied vaccine unless it is specifically stated in the coverage criteria.

*****LHD/FOHC/RHC only:** Persons covered by the Be Smart Family Planning Program are considered uninsured and may receive certain state-supplied vaccines as noted in this coverage criteria for uninsured adults if receiving services at a Local Health Department, Federally Qualified Health Center, or Rural Health Clinic. Unaccompanied minors (through 18 years of age) without proof of insurance presenting to a local health department

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Title X clinic can also be vaccinated with VFC vaccines.

Local health departments (LHD) who are considering using VFC vaccine for offsite clinics, must contact the Immunization Branch for specific guidance prior to scheduling the clinic. Proper storage and handling is critical at all times.

Unless specifically stated above, no NCIP vaccine may be administered to an insured individual unless the patient is an underinsured child at an FQHC, RHC, LHD, or deputized provider.

VFC vaccine cannot be used for allergy skin testing prior to vaccination.