

**Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH)
Division of Epidemiology and Immunization**

NEW: Limited Availability of State Supplied Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine (MCV4), Tetanus, Diphtheria and Acellular Pertussis Vaccine (Tdap) and Varicella Vaccine

Due to unprecedented demand and uptake of three vaccines over the past several months and limitations in state and some federal funding, the Division of Epidemiology and Immunization regrets to announce limitations on the availability of three vaccines. State-supplied MCV4, Tdap and varicella vaccines, previously available for routine catch-up of all groups, are now available for catch-up **only** for children and adolescents who are eligible for the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program*. Since VFC vaccines are only available for those covered by this federal entitlement program, doses for catch-up vaccination must be **limited** to these children.

Detailed information on the availability of all vaccines provided by the Division of Epidemiology and Immunization can be found in the *Childhood Vaccine Availability* and *Adult Vaccine Availability* tables, accessible on the MDPH Immunization Program website: <http://www.mass.gov/dph/cdc/epii/imm/imm.htm#management>.

- **MCV4 vaccine.** State-supplied MCV4 is available only for routine administration to one cohort of adolescents at 7th grade entry (11-12 years of age); for other children and adolescents at high risk for meningococcal disease due to medical conditions, travel or occupational risk; and for catch-up **only** for VFC eligible 13-18 year olds.
 - State-supplied MCV4 is **not** available for non-VFC-eligible children at high school entry or college freshmen living in dormitories.
- **Tdap vaccine.** State supplied Tdap is available only for routine administration to one cohort of adolescents at 7th grade entry (11-12 years of age) and for catch-up **only** for VFC-eligible 13-18 year olds.
 - State-supplied Tdap may be used for those exposed to pertussis or in outbreak settings.
- **Varicella vaccine.** State supplied varicella vaccine is available only for routine administration at 12-15 months of age (1st dose) and 4-6 years of age (2nd dose); for 2nd dose catch-up at 7th grade entry (11-12 years of age); and for 2nd dose catch-up for adolescents in other age groups **only** if they are VFC eligible.
 - State-supplied varicella vaccine may be used post-exposure, for outbreak control and for the household contacts of immunocompromised individuals.

The Division of Epidemiology and Immunization will continue to assess the availability of state-supplied vaccines as funding changes and provide updates to this table, as needed.

* To be eligible for the VFC program, a child must be younger than 19 years of age and meet one of the following criteria:

- be enrolled in Medicaid;
- be without health insurance;
- be an American Indian or Alaska Native; or
- receive care at a federally qualified community health center.

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Limited Availability of State-Supplied MCV4, Tdap and Varicella Vaccine

| Vaccine | Eligibility | Available For |
|---|---------------------|---|
| Meningococcal Conjugate (MCV4) (MDPH does not provide meningococcal polysaccharide vaccine) | All | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adolescents at 7th grade entry (11-12 years of age) • Other children and adolescents at high risk for meningococcal disease due to medical conditions, travel or occupational risk |
| | NEW VFC Only | State-supplied MCV4 <u>not</u> available for routine catch-up in all groups: now available for catch-up only of 13-18 year olds who are VFC-eligible <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State-supplied MCV4 is also not available for non-VFC eligible children at high school entry or freshmen living in dormitories |
| Tdap | All | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One cohort of adolescents at 7th grade entry (11-12 years of age) • Children 10-18 years of age who have been exposed to pertussis or in an outbreak setting |
| | NEW VFC Only | State-supplied Tdap <u>not</u> available for routine catch-up in all groups: now available for catch-up only of 13-18 year olds who are VFC-eligible |
| Varicella | All | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All children 12 months-18 years of age <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st dose routinely administered at 12-15 months of age • 2nd dose for two cohorts, routinely administered at <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ kindergarten entry (4-6 years of age) ○ 7th grade entry (11-12 years of age) • Use as a 2nd dose for children 1-18 years of age who are exposed to varicella as well as for outbreak control • Household contacts of immunocompromised individuals, regardless of age |
| | NEW VFC Only | State-supplied varicella vaccine <u>not</u> available for routine catch-up in all groups: now available for catch-up only of 13-18 year olds who are VFC-eligible |

ACIP Recommendations for the use of meningococcal, Tdap and varicella vaccines can be located on the ACIP website: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/ACIP-list.htm>.

Due to these changes, providers will need to privately purchase MCV4, Tdap and varicella vaccines to catch-up their non-VFC eligible population. We are contacting health plans and insurers to inform them that the Division of Epidemiology and Immunization is no longer able to supply these vaccines for catch-up of non-VFC eligible children or adults.

If you have any questions, please contact the Immunization Program at 617-983-6800.