

## Louisiana Vaccines for Children program reminder

**Background:** Through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program, federally purchased vaccines are available at no charge to enrolled public and private health care providers for eligible children. VFC helps provide vaccines to children whose parents or guardians may not be able to afford them. This helps ensure that all children have a better chance of getting their recommended vaccinations on schedule.

Per the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH), managed care organizations must ensure that providers use vaccines available without charge under the VFC Program for children ages 0 to 18, and **immunizations should be given in conjunction with EPSDT/Well Child visits**. Healthy Louisiana also considers beneficiaries ages 19 and 20 part of the EPSDT population; therefore, age-appropriate immunizations are required (although outside of VFC). Public health units can serve as a support resource or safety net for our members' vaccination health, but they should not be used in lieu of the member's medical home or for provider convenience as standard practice.

### How do I enroll as a VFC provider?

To enroll as a VFC provider, please contact the Louisiana Immunization Program at **1-504-568-2600**. For answers to frequently asked questions regarding the Louisiana VFC program, visit <https://ldh.la.gov/index.cfm/faq/category/77>.

### Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) services

Healthy Blue is committed to promoting member receipt of age-appropriate preventive health services. A list of members who, based on our claims data, may not have received EPSDT services according to schedule is sent to the member's PCP each month. Additionally, we mail information to these members encouraging them to contact their PCP's office to set up appointments for needed services. Please visit <https://providers.healthybluel.com/la/pages/epsdt.aspx> for additional EPSDT resources.

**Please note:** All components, including specimen collection, must be provided on-site during the same medical screening visit. The minimum list of required components of an EPSDT visit include:

- A comprehensive health and developmental history (including assessment of both physical and mental health and development).
- A comprehensive unclothed physical exam or assessment.
- **Appropriate immunizations according to age and health history** (unless medically contraindicated or parents/guardians refuse at the time).
- Laboratory tests (including appropriate neonatal, iron deficiency anemia, and blood lead screening).
- Health education (including anticipatory guidance).

### Immunizations

Appropriate immunizations (unless medically contraindicated or the parents/guardians refuse) are a federally required medical screening component, and failure to comply with or properly document the immunization requirement constitutes an incomplete screening and is subject to recoupment of the total medical screening fee. The current Childhood Immunization Schedule recommended by Advisory Committee on Immunizations Practices (ACIP), American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), which is updated yearly, should be followed. Providers are responsible for obtaining current copies of the schedule. Rural Health Clinic and Federally Qualified Health Center policies for EPSDT requirements are consistent with the Professional Services policy.

### What if I need assistance?

If you have questions about this communication or need assistance with any other item, contact your local Provider Relations representative or call Provider Services at **1-844-521-6942**.

<https://providers.healthybluel.com>

Healthy Blue is the trade name of Community Care Health Plan of Louisiana, Inc., an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

BLAPEEC-2016-20 August 2020