



## Find Flu Vaccines Using Vaccine Finder



Influenza (flu) is an illness that can easily spread from person to person. The flu's main symptoms include a fever, cough, sore throat, body aches and sometimes a runny nose. For most people, the flu does not lead to serious illness and goes away on its own.

Promoting the flu vaccine can be done through [Vaccine Finder](#), an online tool available in August 2023, which will help users where to find a flu vaccine.

To find a clinic that offers the flu vaccine, the patient will:

- Enter their zip code
- Select a vaccine option:
  - Egg-free flu vaccine
  - Flu nasal spray
  - High dose or adjuvanted flu vaccine
  - Adjuvanted flu vaccine for individuals 65 and older

The results page will list nearby providers, including each location's address, contact number and website.

More information about the flu, visit [Influenza \(Flu\) | Texas DSHS](#)

# TVFC/ASN program Vaccine Waste and Disposal

The 2022- 2023 flu vaccine expired on June 30, 2023. If you are a Texas Vaccine for Children (TVFC) and/or Adult Safety Net (ASN) provider, please follow the waste and disposal requirements outlined below.

## **Expired/Ruined/Wasted Vaccine**

Providers should not return these products if:

- The cap has been removed from a vial,
- Not all doses from a multi-dose vial were used after 28 days,
- A needle has been attached to a pre-filled syringe,
- Vaccine has been drawn into the syringe but was not administered, or
- Vaccine was reconstituted with incorrect diluent.

If none of these apply and the vaccines are expired/ruined/wasted, the vaccines must be returned to the manufacturer within six months of the expiration date or the date the vaccine was ruined/wasted.

Prepare vaccines for shipment by:

- Separate viable vaccines,
- Place in a quarantine storage bag, and
- Store until a return label is received.

For more information, refer to the Chapter 3, Section 2 of the [2023 TVFC/ASN Provider Manual](#).

## Vaccine and Medical Waste Disposal

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) advises providers to dispose of wasted vaccines in accordance with local regulations. DSHS follows the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's (TCEQ) guidance on proper medical waste disposal of wasted vaccines. For more information on medical waste and its proper disposal, please refer to the [TCEQ medical waste website](#).

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## Patient Population Determination

Accurately capturing the number of eligible Federal Vaccine for Children (VFC) and TVFC patients happen during initial enrollment, annual re-enrollment, or if the population of a clinic changes throughout the year in Syntropi.



These populations are important because the data drives funding and resource allocation for the TVFC program and strengthens vaccine accountability. There are two categories for federal VFC and TVFC:

#### Patient Profile: Federal VFC Population

The Federal VFC program provides vaccines for children who:

- Receive Medicaid (or are Medicaid-eligible),
- Are uninsured,
- Are American Indian/Alaskan Native, and/or
- Are underinsured and seen in clinics designated as Federally Qualified Health Center/Rural Health Clinic (FQHC/RHC), or deputized DSHS Public Health Region) (PHR) or Local Health Department (LHD) clinics.

Underinsured patients include:

- Does not cover any vaccines,
- Cover only certain vaccines, or
- Placed a fixed dollar limit or cap on vaccines.

#### Patient Profile: Texas VFC Population

Texas Government adds state dollars to expand the Federal VFC program and provide vaccines for:

- Children Health Insurance Program (CHIP) recipients
- Underinsured and seen in private offices. Underinsured patients include those who have private insurance that:
  - Does not cover any vaccines,
  - Covers only certain vaccines, or
  - Placed a fixed dollar limit or cap on vaccines.