



Flu Fighters: Don't Miss Your Vaccine

Health care providers have an opportunity to highlight prevention strategies for the flu, a highly contagious respiratory disease. The CDC estimates in the [2021 -2022 flu season](#) the flu vaccine prevented approximately:

- eight million flu-related illnesses
- one million medical visits
- twenty thousand hospitalizations
- one thousand deaths

The flu season is between October and May. Flu vaccines are updated through research annually since the virus undergoes continuous mutations. Providers should remind patients to get vaccinated during the fall and remind patients that it takes up to two weeks for antibodies to develop after receiving the flu vaccine.

Resources

Health care providers can use these tools to help patients get vaccinated for the flu:

- the [Flu Vaccine Finder](#)

- free parent-friendly educational materials on [com](#). Some of the more commonly requested materials from this website include:
 - Immunization Schedule (Ages 18 years or younger) – stock #6-105
 - Immunization Schedule (Ages 18 or older) – stock #6-105L
 - Ways to Prevent the Flu poster – stock #11-1401P
 - Fight the Flu brochure (English) – stock #11-13710
 - Fight the Flu brochure (Spanish) – stock #11-13710A
 - Vaccinate Through Life - stock #11-15317

For more information about flu, please visit the [CDC](#) or [DSHS](#) flu pages.

TVFC Flu Dashboard

In November, the Texas Department of State Health Services will email Texas Vaccines for Children (TVFC) providers flu dashboards for the 2023-2024 flu season.

The DSHS flu dashboard will show:

- Progress on doses received and flu doses administered to TVFC-eligible patients.
- How many doses of flu vaccine pre-ordered and ordered to date.
- Statewide information on the number of flu-like illnesses and pediatric deaths due to flu.

For more questions, email TXVaccineOrders@DSHS.Texas.gov



Holiday No Shipping Schedule

To prepare for the upcoming holidays, the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) central office vaccine distributor will not be delivering vaccines on the following dates. Note that this will not impact the usual ordering operations.

- Monday, November 20 – Friday, November 24, 2023
- Monday, December 18 – Sunday, December 31, 2023
- Monday, January 1, 2024

For any questions, reach out to TXVaccineOrders@DSHS.Texas.gov

School Compliance Reporting Information

The [Annual Report of Immunization Status](#) (ARIS) began Friday, October 27, 2023, and ends Friday, December 8, 2023.

The regulations outlined in the Texas Education Code Section [38.002](#) and [25 TAC §97.71](#) require all public school districts and accredited non-public or private schools to complete the ARIS annually. The purpose of this report is to monitor compliance outlined in [25 TAC §97.61-97.72](#). Local Health Departments and Public Health Regions upload the collected ARIS data to the [Child Health Reporting System \(CHRS\)](#) within the reporting window.

The [Population Assessment Manual \(PAM\)](#) is posted to the [DSHS website](#) for reference.

If you have any questions about immunization requirements or this report, visit the [Back to School](#) page, by phone (800) 252-9152 or email chrs.loginhelp@dshs.texas.gov.

Changes to Enrollment Process

The DSHS central office manages enrollment changes using Syntropi. Here is the essential information to be aware of regarding the changes to the enrollment process:

- **Paused Processing:** DSHS temporarily paused the processing of [Changes to Enrollment Form \(CTEFs\)](#) at the beginning of the 2024 TVFC/ASN Program Re-Enrollment
- **Renewal upon Approval:** Once provider re-enrollment packages are approved, DSHS will resume processing changes to enrollment requests from Responsible Entities (REs). After the provider's PIN's re-enrollment has been Approved, submit all change requests using the CTEFs (11-15224).
- **Types of Changes:** As specified in Figure 1, the essential information for modifying facility details involves providing updated information, which includes:
 - Facility Name
 - Facility Shipping Address
 - Facility Shipping Hours
 - Signing Clinician
 - Prescribing Authorities
 - Patient Population Data Change
 - Primary and/or Back-up Vaccine Coordinator

Check the box that corresponds to the requested change(s). For each change, complete the required sections outlined in the 'Directions' section.

DIRECTIONS:
<p>Check the box to indicate the change requested. This form is required when TVFC/ASN sites have changes to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Sections A & B - Facility Name <input type="checkbox"/> Sections A & C - Facility Shipping Address <input type="checkbox"/> Sections A & D - Facility Shipping Hours <input type="checkbox"/> Sections A & E - Signing Clinician <input type="checkbox"/> Sections A & F - Prescribing Authorities <input type="checkbox"/> Sections A & G - Patient Population Data Change <input type="checkbox"/> Sections A & H - Primary and/or Back-up Vaccine Coordinator

Figure 1

Vaccine Coordinator Changes: When making changes to the primary and/or backup vaccine coordinator, please ensure you complete the CTEFs and include the completion certificates from the following training programs:

- 2024 TVFC/ASN Provider Policy Training
- CDC's You Call the Shots Module 10
- CDC's You Call the Shots Module 16
- VAOS Training Certificate

After completing the CTEFs, along with any required training certificates, email the form to your RE for awareness.

For access to the portal document folder, visit <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/immunize/tvfc/publications.aspx>.

If you have any questions regarding the form, reach out to your RE and refer to the [2023 TVFC and ASN Operations Manual for Providers](#) for further guidance.

Preventing temperature excursions in your clinic



One goal of the TVFC and ASN programs is to promote and practice the safe handling of vaccines. TVFC/ASN program providers can ensure the safety of their vaccines by properly monitoring the temperature of the storage units used to store vaccines with data loggers. Data loggers provide accurate and comprehensive monitoring of temperature excursions to which vaccines may be exposed.

[The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) and TVFC/ASN program policy require any vaccine storage unit to maintain temperatures within the following ranges:

- The refrigerator compartment: between 36°F and 46°F (2°C and 8°C) for vaccine viability
- The freezer compartment: between -58°F and +5°F (-50°C and -15°C) for vaccine viability

A temperature excursion includes any temperature reading outside the vaccine manufacturer's recommended temperature range. Temperature readings $\pm 0.1^{\circ}\text{F}$ or $\pm 0.1^{\circ}\text{C}$ from the approved temperature ranges for TVFC/ASN providers is a temperature excursions and requires immediate attention. For example:

- A refrigerator reading of 46.1°F or 8.1°C would meet the criteria for a temperature excursion; therefore, TVFC/ASN program providers must contact the vaccine manufacturer to obtain guidance on vaccine viability.

By documenting temperature readings, providers ensure the safety and viability of the vaccines. TVFC/ASN program providers can refer to the [2023 TVFC/ASN Provider Manual](#) for additional guidance on the required protocol if they experience a temperature excursion.