



Back to School Means Back to Flu

When it comes to managing children's health, ensure influenza (flu) is a priority. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) highly recommend students get vaccinated every flu season.

Flu can cause [symptoms](#) such as

- Fever
- Cough
- Occasionally diarrhea and vomiting

If a child becomes ill with flu symptoms, it is important to isolate and test children with flu and other respiratory illnesses.

Providers and Responsible Entities (REs) can highlight flu prevention by:

- Administering the flu vaccine to school-aged children.
- Teaching school staff how to communicate with children about safe hand washing.
- Communicating with school administrators on improving classroom hygiene.
- Providing resources to school administrators about healthy choices at school and home.

Register yourself and your family's immunization records in the Texas Immunization Registry (ImmTrac2) to track all your vaccines. If you are not registered, please visit [ImmTrac2](#) or call 800-348-9158.

2023-2024 TVFC Flu Vaccine Allocations

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) flu vaccine allocations for the Texas Vaccines for Children (TVFC) program occur on Mondays beginning Monday, August 28, 2023.

Allocations will occur on Mondays until Open Ordering is announced.

An automatic email notification will be sent to primary and backup vaccine coordinators once flu doses are available in the Vaccine Allocation and Ordering System (VAOS).

Reminders:

- Allocate all flu allocations by noon every Friday.
- Prepare your inventory to accommodate seasonal doses.
- Only decrease your weekly allocations if storage capacity is an issue.
- Flu doses not accepted in VAOS will return to the overall flu allocation pool, which may delay your next vaccine shipment.

For flu-related questions, please get in touch with your RE.



Vaccine Choice

All vaccines and toxoids recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) are available through the TVFC program. The 81st Texas Legislature [House Bill 448](#) gives staff at TVFC-enrolled sites the opportunity to choose preferred brands and presentations of vaccines from available formularies.

Who chooses?

A site's primary or backup vaccine coordinator can select a site's desired vaccine brand or presentation. However, before finalizing selections, the coordinator must consult the signing clinician.

If the chosen vaccine is unavailable, the TVFC program has the authority to replace the unavailable vaccine with a comparable substitution until the selected vaccine becomes available.

The Exception

TVFC program strives to allow providers to choose vaccine brands and presentations. However, vaccine choice may be unavailable during:

- Disasters
- Public health emergencies
- Terrorist emergency
- Hostile military or paramilitary actions
- Any other extraordinary law enforcement emergency

How to Choose

Vaccine choice occurs when opening ordering in the VAOS. To see a tutorial on choosing your vaccine brands and presentations when ordering, watch [Update Vaccine Choice](#).

Patient Population Reporting Requirements

In compliance with the TVFC and Adult Safety Net (ASN) program guidelines, all participating clinics are obligated to maintain current and accurate patient population data. Providers must provide patient population details in the TVFC/ASN program agreement as part of enrollment.

Should there be any changes in the number of children served at clinics over the year, sites must promptly submit a [Changes to Enrollment Form](#) to their RE. This information is vital for ensuring clinics maintain an adequate 75-day vaccine supply Maximum Stock Level (MSL) tailored to specific patient demographics.



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), deputized DSHS Public Health Region (PHR) or Local Health Department (LHD) clinics.

Underinsured patients are people whose insurance:

- Does not cover vaccines,
- Only covers certain vaccines, or
- Has placed a fixed dollar limit or cap on vaccines

Patient Profile: Texas VFC Population

The 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.

In the case of the adult population, the "Patient Profile" sub-tab splits adults aged 19 years and older into two groups: insured and uninsured. This separation accurately reflects the number of adult clients served at clinics.

For further information on underinsured status, see Chapter Two of the [2023 TVFC/ASN Provider Manual](#).

For more comprehensive details about the ASN program, see Chapter Nine of the [2023 TVFC/ASN Provider Manual](#).

For providers who need assistance reporting accurate patient profile numbers, please contact your RE.

Gearing up for the 2024 TVFC/ASN Annual Re-Enrollment

The 2024 TVFC and ASN programs' annual re-enrollment period begins Monday, October 2, 2023, through Tuesday, October 31, 2023. TVFC/ASN providers must update their Syntropi profiles and sign new TVFC/ASN program agreements.

How should providers prepare for re-enrollment?

Before re-enrollment, providers should identify clinics re-enrolling in the TVFC or ASN program. Staff responsible for completing the re-enrollment process should have:

- Clinic name
- Clinic address
- TVFC/ASN PIN number
- ImmTrac2 organization code
- Clinic phone number
- Clinic fax number
- Operating hours when the clinic can receive vaccine deliveries

Additionally, staff should:

1. Update the clinic's information for future communication.
2. Confirm whether their facility is privately or publicly funded.
3. Provide an accurate description of the clinic's facility type.

TVFC/ASN sites that are FQHC or RHC facility type must submit a copy of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) designation letter.

During re-enrollment, providers must complete these action items in the [enrollment portal](#).

1. Primary and Back-up Vaccine Coordinator Requirements

Providers will be asked to identify:

- The clinic's primary and backup vaccine coordinators'
 - Name
 - Position
- Unique emails
- Phone numbers

The named vaccine coordinators must complete and upload:

- The most current TVFC/ASN Provider Policy training certificate.
- Two Centers for Disease Control and Prevention training certificates: ["You Call the Shots" Modules 10 and 16](#).
- The [Vaccine Allocation Ordering System \(VAOS\) training](#).

2. Profile Requirements

Providers re-enrolling in the TVFC program must provide the number of children vaccinated in their facility in the previous 12-months in the following categories:

- Enrolled in Medicaid or Medicaid-eligible
- Uninsured
- American Indian/Alaskan Native
- Underinsured
- Enrolled in CHIP
- Insured

The enrollment portal has a "Patient Profile" sub-tab; the pediatric patient population is categorized into three eligibility groups: Federal VFC, TVFC and Non-VFC. These categories help capture the total number of children.

3. Storage Unit Requirements

Providers will be asked to collect information related to storage units for re-enrollment:

- Confirm the number of units that contain TVFC/ASN vaccines.
- Count the number of data loggers, including a backup.
- Upload current and valid calibration certificates for every data logger used to oversee the temperature in the storage units, including backup loggers.

- Ensure that these data logger calibration certificates include up-to-date calibration dates and a unique serial number corresponding to each specific data logger.

4. Provider Satisfaction Survey

TVFC/ASN providers take program satisfaction surveys during re-enrollment. This annual survey, mandated by the CDC on behalf of DSHS, is a crucial tool for evaluating the overall satisfaction of TVFC/ASN programs.

Failure to complete annual re-enrollment

Providers must have their current enrollment information to prevent shipment disruptions. Sites that fail to submit the completed information in the enrollment portal will be withdrawn from the TVFC/ASN program and suspended from ordering vaccines.

- Providers may contact their REs.
- REs may contact the DSHS central office for guidance and assistance on technical issues.

TVFC/ASN Re-Enrollment Checklist

This checklist serves as a guide for providers on the [Enrollment Portal](#).

Facility Information
Clinic Name:
Clinic Address:
Clinic Phone Number:
Clinic Fax Number:
TVFC/ASN PIN:
*Unique six digit number given when first enrolled in the program (ex. 000000)
ImmTrac2 ORG Code:
Clinic Hours Available for Vaccine Deliveries

*Appropriate staff must be on-site and available at least one (1) day a week other than Monday and for at least four (4) consecutive hours during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Monday:

Tuesday:

Wednesday:

Thursday:

Friday:

Facility Type:

☐ CMS Letter required only for FQHC or RHC

☐ Privately Funded

☐ Publicly Funded

Primary Vaccine Coordinator Information

Primary Vaccine Coordinator Name:

Primary Vaccine Coordinator Email:

*Email must be unique AND different from the other vaccine coordinator

Primary Vaccine Coordinator Phone Number:

Primary Vaccine Coordinator Title:

☐ 2024 TVFC/ASN Policy Training Certificate

☐ [‘You Call the Shots Module 10 Storage and Handling’](#) Training Certificate

☐ [‘You Call the Shots Module 16 Vaccines for Children’](#) Training Certificate

☐ [Vaccine Allocation Ordering System \(VAOS\)](#) Training Certificate

Backup Vaccine Coordinator Information
Backup Vaccine Coordinator Name:
Backup Vaccine Coordinator Email:
*Email must be unique AND different from the other vaccine coordinator
Backup Vaccine Coordinator Phone Number:
Backup Vaccine Coordinator Title:
<input type="checkbox"/> 2024 TVFC/ASN Policy Training Certificate
<input type="checkbox"/> ‘You Call the Shots Module 10 Storage and Handling’ Training Certificate
<input type="checkbox"/> ‘You Call the Shots Module 16 Vaccines for Children’ Training Certificate
<input type="checkbox"/> Vaccine Allocation Ordering System (VAOS) Training Certificate

Patient Population Information
*Patient population information can be collected from the clinic’s benchmarking data, doses administered data, Medicaid claims, Immunization Information System (ImmTrac2) data, encounter data, and/or billing system data.
TVFC Providers
Number of children that were vaccinated in their facility in the previous 12 months in the following categories:
Enrolled in Medicaid or Medicaid Eligible:
Uninsured:
American Indian/Alaskan Native:
Underinsured:
Enrolled in Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP):
Insured:

ASN Providers
Number of <i>uninsured</i> adults vaccinated in their facility in the previous 12 months:
Number of <i>insured</i> adults vaccinated in their facility in the previous 12 months:

Storage Units that Contain TVFC/ASN Vaccines
Number of Storage Units:
Number of Digital Data Loggers:
Backup Digital Data Logger:
<input type="checkbox"/> Certificates of Calibration for Digital Data Loggers
<input type="checkbox"/> Certificate of Calibration for Backup Digital Data Logger

Provider Satisfaction Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Complete <input type="checkbox"/> Incomplete