



STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM
CORDELL HULL BUILDING, 1ST FLOOR
425 - 5TH AVENUE NORTH
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243

Free, Federal Vaccines in Tennessee Health Departments: Who is Eligible?

The Tennessee Department of Health has a small amount of federal money to buy vaccines that can be given to patients at no charge, if the patient does not qualify for the federal Vaccines for Children Program. Because of this, health departments have had to limit the patients eligible for these free vaccines. Patients who are given these vaccines pay only a small fee to the clinic for giving the vaccine. In some cases, health departments may buy vaccine locally to give to other patients and will charge them for the cost of the vaccine and for giving the vaccine. Some vaccines can stop someone from getting sick after they are already exposed to a disease, in these situations the health department does not charge the patient for the vaccine.

Children, birth through 18 years, who qualify for the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program: *All Vaccines*

Any child eligible for this program can get all of the vaccines recommended for them at any health department. The administration fee will be adjusted based on ability to pay.

To be eligible, children must be younger than 19 years old AND one of the following:

- Uninsured, or
- TennCare (even if they also have coverage by another insurance), or
- American Indian or Alaskan Native (“Native American”) ethnicity, or
- “Underinsured” (the child has private insurance, but benefits do not include vaccines)

Children birth through age 6 years who do not qualify for the VFC Program: *All Vaccines*

Children who have state CoverKids insurance or other private insurance with vaccine coverage benefits are not eligible for the VFC Program, even if they have a co-pay or deductible. These patients should generally see a healthcare provider who can bill their insurance for their vaccines. However, if they do come to a health department, they **will** be given any vaccines they need.

Children ages 7 through 18 years who do not qualify for the VFC Program: *School Requirements Only*

Children who have state CoverKids insurance or other private insurance with vaccine coverage benefits are not eligible for the VFC Program, even if they have a co-pay or deductible. These patients should see a healthcare provider who can bill insurance for those vaccines. Health departments **will** give these children any vaccines they need to meet Tennessee school entry requirements and get an immunization certificate for school.

Adults 19 years and older: *Limited Vaccines*

- Vaccine will be given to prevent illness in a person who has been exposed to a vaccine-preventable disease. (For example: hepatitis A, hepatitis B, measles).
- Measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) and varicella (chickenpox) vaccines: Uninsured adults who need them to meet state college entry requirements. Locally purchased vaccine may be available to those with insurance who are unable to locate vaccine elsewhere, but there is a charge for both the vaccine and administration.
- One dose of Hib vaccine may be given to a patient without a spleen or following a bone marrow transplant, if referred by their physician (and unable to obtain it elsewhere).
- Tetanus-diphtheria-pertussis (Tdap) vaccine: uninsured adults who are close contacts (household or caregiver) of a pregnant woman or an infant under 1 year old or who need tetanus vaccine after an injury.
- Uninsured adults who are treated in health department primary care clinics and have certain medical conditions may be given certain vaccines needed for their medical conditions.