

July 1, 2020

Ensuring Pediatric Vaccination Coverage During COVID-19

Dear Provider,

During the COVID-19 public health emergency, vaccine rates for children in California and San Mateo County have decreased significantly. In April 2020, only 41% of the previous volume of doses were delivered to children aged 0 to 18 versus the prior year. This decline can leave children and the community vulnerable to vaccine preventable diseases, such as measles. If measles vaccination coverage of 90%-95% is not achieved, measles outbreaks may occur.

Concerted efforts are needed to ensure rapid catch up for children who are not up to date with measles and other ACIP recommended vaccines. Strategies to enhance immunization services may include:

- Dedicating specific clinics, rooms or buildings for well child/immunization visits
- Closing waiting and registration areas
- Providing immunizations in family vehicles in parking lots.

Please refer to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) for full guidance and other suggestions:

- CDC: [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/healthcare-facilities/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/healthcare-facilities/index.html)
- AAP: [services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/](https://www.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/)

For practices with limited capacity, the California Department of Public Health encouraged providers to prioritize newborn care and vaccination of infants and young children (through 24 months of age) when possible. (*CDPH March 27th 2020 guidance*)

Questions? Please call the VFC Customer Service Center at **877-243-8832**.

Thank you, Health Plan of San Mateo