



UNDERSTANDING AND PREPARING FOR YOUR NEXT SITE VISIT

Maine Immunization Providers may receive 3 different site visits throughout the year. These visits include: VFC (Vaccines for Children) Provider Compliance Site Visit, AFIX Visit, and Unannounced Storage and Handling Visit. In order to be fully prepared and to ensure that you are following the appropriate VFC guidelines, the Maine Immunization Program has included important information on each site visit in this month's newsletter.

VFC Provider Compliance Site Visit

VFC provider site visits help determine if VFC vaccines are being distributed, handled and administered in accordance with the laws and policies that govern the VFC Program. The VFC Program is required to conduct site visits to VFC providers in both the public and private healthcare sectors. The purpose of these site visits is to review children's immunization records through the VFC Program and to evaluate the provider's recordkeeping, vaccine handling and storage procedures and compliance with the requirements of the VFC Program.

How often will I have a compliance site visit?

At least once every other year.

What do I need to be prepared for my visit?

Items to be reviewed during visit (Provider should have available) include:

- Administration fee for vaccine (should not exceed the maximum regional cap of \$21.58)
- Access to VFC Vaccine Storage Units
- Temperature logs (3 months)
- Vaccine Information Statements (VIS)
- Access to EMR or Paper Charts for VFC Eligibility Review
(VFC staff will assess VFC eligibility screening by conducting a random sample of the immunization records of 30 children, 0 through 18 years of age. The records of both VFC eligible and non-VFC eligible patients should be available. If a provider does not have 30 children in the 0-18 year age group, all charts in the 0-18 year age group will be reviewed).
- Written Vaccine Management Plan
- Access to Circuit Breaker that supplies power to VFC Storage Units

AFIX Visits

What does AFIX stand for?

Assessment of the healthcare provider's vaccination coverage levels and immunization practices.

Feedback of results to the provider along with recommended strategies to improve processes, immunization practices, and coverage levels.

Incentives to recognize and reward improved performance.

eXchange of healthcare information and resources necessary to facilitate improvement.

What is the purpose of an AFIX Visit?

The purpose of AFIX is to assist and support health care personnel by identifying low immunization rates, opportunities for improving immunization delivery practices, and ensuring that providers are;

1. Aware of and knowledgeable about their immunization rates and missed opportunities to vaccinate.
2. Motivated to incorporate changes to their current practices.
3. Ready to try new immunization service strategies.
4. Capable of sustaining these new behaviors.

How often will I have an AFIX visit?

Once every year.

Unannounced Storage and Handling Visit

As of January 1st, 2013 any MIP providers may be chosen to receive an **unannounced** storage and handling visit at their provider office.

The goal of these visits is to provide guidance and education and to ensure that all Vaccine for Children (VFC) eligible children are receiving properly managed vaccines.

How are providers selected for an unannounced site visit?

MIP providers may be chosen for an unannounced storage and handling visit based on any one of the following criteria:

- Any loss of publicly purchased vaccine.
- Storing publicly purchased vaccine incorrectly.
- Not correctly documenting temperature logs.
- Noncompliant for any question on the VFC site visit questionnaire.
- Not reconciling publicly purchased vaccine every 30 days as required.
- Failing to meet any of the current requirements of the Maine Immunization Provider Agreement.



To contact the Maine Immunization Program, please call us at:
(207) 287-3746 or (800) 867-4775 or visit our web page at www.immunizeme.org