Pennsylvania
Department of Health

Pennsylvania Immunization Program

Quarterly Newsletter

Winter 2026

Contents:

Bureau-Wide News: Farm Show
Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program
Upcoming Educational Opportunities and Conferences
Vaccine Promotion and Education Resources
Contact Us

Bureau-Wide News

BOI Farm Show Flu Clinic

The Bureau of Immunizations (BOI) held a flu clinic at the 2026 PA Farm Show from January 10 through 17. Over 660 doses of flu vaccine were administered over the course of the week, the highest number in the last five years. BOI staff also shared resources for respiratory virus season and coloring books with crayons for kids. Secretary of Health Dr. Debra Bogen visited the Department of Health booths and spoke with staff there, expressing her support.

In addition, the Bureau of Epidemiology provided tickborne illness prevention materials, the Bureau of WIC shared enrollment materials and nutrition information, Environmental Health provided radon tests, and the Bureau of EMS distributed naloxone and provided CPR demonstrations to the public.

Right: Clinic Manager Diana Kint, BOI, and Rebecca Dano, Bureau of Community Health Systems (BCHS).

Above, left to right: Jenn Shirk, BCHS; Keri Seitz, BCHS; Fred Oberholtzer, BCHS; Beth Anne Smith, BOI; Secretary Bogen; Allison Longenberger, Bureau of Epidemiology (BOE); Jennifer Wallace, BOE; Leah Lind, BOE; Kim Warren, BOE; and Ram Nambiar, BOE.

Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program

Provider Identification Number (PIN)

VFC providers need to include their PIN in all correspondence and documents sent to the VFC program. The PIN is a unique identifier and must be used for all communications. This includes using your PIN on voicemails and emails as well.

New VFC Provider Enrollment

The Pennsylvania VFC program welcomes new providers to the program anytime; enrollment is always open. Providers must apply online to become a new VFC program provider.

Please visit the VFC webpage, the Provider Enrollment section, to review the program requirements, policies, enrollment process, and apply online.

Vaccine Updates

RSV in the 2025–2026 Season

RSV immunization of infants is recommended between September 2025 and March 31, 2026.

Abrysvo: NDC: 00069-2465-01; RSV; SDV; 1-PACK

The last day to order VFC Abrysvo (NDC: 00069-2465-01; RSV; SDV; 1-pack) was Thursday, January 29, 2026. Ordering for this product is now turned off in PIERS.

VFC 317 Program Vaccine Ordering Timing and Frequency Update

Due to the removal of 317-funded pediatric hepatitis B birth dose vaccine, the restriction to primarily order 317 for the first of the month has been removed. Providers may order 317 at any time of the month when the need arises.

The 317 funding continues to be limited, so it is requested that quantities ordered reflect monthly need. It is preferred that smaller, more frequent orders are made to ensure doses are administered and to minimize waste.

PA CARES Program Enrollment

The new state-directed Pennsylvania Children's Access to Routine and Essential Shots (PA CARES) program provider enrollment remains open.

All VFC providers enrolled in and in good standing with the Pennsylvania and Philadelphia immunization programs are strongly encouraged to enroll in PA CARES.

To enroll in PA CARES, PA VFC providers must complete and sign the PA CARES Provider Agreement and submit it to the PA CARES email address: RA-DHPACARES@pa.gov.

Please include site name and PIN in the email subject line.

Philadelphia VFC providers should email their provider agreement and any questions to the Philadelphia program at Vaccines@phila.gov.

PA VFC Providers, please direct any questions to the PA CARES resource account RA-DHPACARES@pa.gov.

VFC Program, Continued

Annual VFC Provider Satisfaction Survey

As another year begins, the Pennsylvania Immunization Program wants to thank all our providers for the incredible work you do, particularly during respiratory disease season! Your efforts and tireless work regarding immunizations is critical to keeping children and families healthy!

The program continuously strives to better support the needs of our providers and their patients. Your feedback is vital to guide decisions to help make this the best program possible.

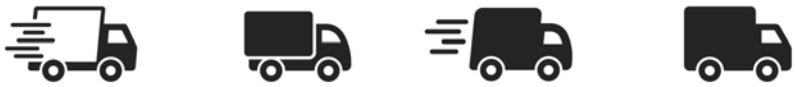
Please consider taking a few minutes to complete this anonymous, mobile friendly VFC Provider Satisfaction Survey available here.

Temporary Temperature Monitor Change with Refrigerated Vaccine Shipments

As of February, McKesson has temporarily transitioned from electronic TagAlert temperature monitors to chemical temperature monitors in refrigerated vaccine shipments due to a shortage of TagAlerts. They anticipate resuming the use of electronic TagAlert monitors in refrigerated vaccine shipments by mid- to late April 2026.

During this transition, all refrigerated vaccine shipments will include an instructional flyer. Additionally, McKesson will exclusively use EcoFlex coolers during this period. These coolers feature vacuum insulated panels, which provide enhanced temperature stability and a longer shipment qualification time.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation as we navigate this temporary change.



Resolving Delayed Shipments and Shipping Errors

Some VFC providers may experience delayed shipments or shipment errors. This can be caused by snowstorms, bad weather, and blackout periods.

Providers may take the following steps to help resolve delayed shipments or shipment errors:

- Confirm your hours of delivery and address are correct in PIERS.
- Reach out to the shipper (FedEx, USPS) to discuss the issues you are experiencing.
- If you are unable to get a resolution from the shipper's customer service, ask for a supervisor to escalate this matter.

Please note, if your order is returned to the warehouse, lost, or delivered late with no fault from the provider, McKesson will notify the program and send a replacement order.

As a reminder, if a provider's order is lost or delivered late with non-viable vaccines, to get a replacement order, the provider must notify the program within the same day for the replacement order to be honored.

All-Provider Webinar: PA VFC 2025-2026 Policy Changes

The Pennsylvania Immunization Program hosted an all-provider webinar to review the 2025-2026 VFC policy changes below:

- Expanded underinsured definition for VFC and section 317 eligibility
- Updated private inventory requirements
- Updated VFC COVID vaccine inventory requirements
- Updated Borrowing policy and procedure

The purpose of this webinar was to review the changes and give VFC providers a chance to ask questions. VFC provider notices announcing this policy changes covered in this webinar were distributed in July, September, and December of 2025.

The session was offered at two different times.

The webinar was recorded, and the recording published to TRAIN PA. The presentation will also be available on the VFC webpage.

Upcoming Educational Opportunities and Conferences

2026 You Call the Shots (YCTS) Modules 10 and 16 Trainings

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) 2026 You Call the Shots (YCTS) Module 10 Storage and Handling and Module 16 Vaccines for Children Program trainings are now available on the CDC 2026 You Call the Shots webpage.

The CDC 2026 refresher tests for both modules are also now available on the CDC Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program: Information for Providers webpage under Annual Training Opportunities for VFC Program Providers.

VFC Provider Annual Training Requirement Reminders:

- VFC Primary Coordinators and Backup Coordinators must either take the full module trainings or complete the refreshers tests annually.
- VFC Primary Coordinators and Backup Coordinators must upload PDFs of the certificates for the trainings or refresher tests in PIERS.
- Medical Directors (PIERS contact type Physician Signing Agreement) do not have to take these trainings or refresher tests unless they are also a Primary or Backup Coordinator.

A Quick Reference Sheet titled QRS-Add Training Records to Clinic Staff provides detailed instructions on how to upload PDFs of the certificates. It is available in PIERS in the Reports section under PA WEBIZ Forms and Resources.

Providers will not be able to submit 2026 VFC reenrollment in PIERS unless PDFs of both 2026 certificates have been uploaded for both the primary and backup coordinators.

- The 2026 certificates are required.
- The 2025 certificates will not be accepted even if they are less than one year old.
- The 2026 certificates must be uploaded in PDF format to appear in PIERS.

Please note, Continuing Education Units (CEUs) are only available for the full module trainings. CEUs are not available for the refresher tests.

VFC Program New Provider Enrollment Training Webinars

Webinars are held on the third Thursday of each month to introduce new providers to the VFC program. These new provider enrollment webinars give new and existing VFC providers an opportunity to learn more about the program and ask questions.

Date: April 16, 2026
Time: 12:00 – 1:00 PM
Registration Link to Sign Up: Here

Date: May 21, 2026
Time: 12:00-1:00 PM
Registration Link to Sign Up: Here

Date: June 11, 2026
Time: 12:00-1:00 PM
Registration Link to Sign Up: Here

2026 Immunization Champion Award Applications

BOI welcomed nominations for the annual Pennsylvania 2026 Immunization Champion Award. The immunization champion award identifies individuals and teams working at the local level in PA who are doing an exemplary job, going above and beyond to promote the importance of immunizations by leading, collaborating, being innovative, or advocating to improve and increase immunizations across the lifespan from vaccine preventable diseases.

The four selected champions will be recognized at PIC 2026 on June 18, 2026.

Upcoming Educational Opportunities and Conferences (Cont.)

Registration is Open: Pennsylvania Immunization Conference (PIC 2026)

You are invited! BOI is hosting the 30th annual statewide Pennsylvania Immunization Conference, also known as PIC 2026.

This accredited conference is an opportunity for professionals to learn, network, and become more involved in immunizations work. In-person seats are limited.

The agenda will include national, state, and local speakers with topics to include commemoration of 70 years of the polio vaccine, immunization schedule updates, addressing dis/misinformation and public health myths, vaccine preventable disease outbreak updates, survivor stories, and recognition of the 2026 immunization champions.

PENNSYLVANIA IMMUNIZATION CONFERENCE

SAVE THE DATE: Thursday, June 18, 2026, 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM, at the Hershey Lodge, 325 University Drive in Hershey.

To register to attend or apply to be a conference exhibitor, please visit the 30th Pennsylvania Immunization Conference (PIC 2026).

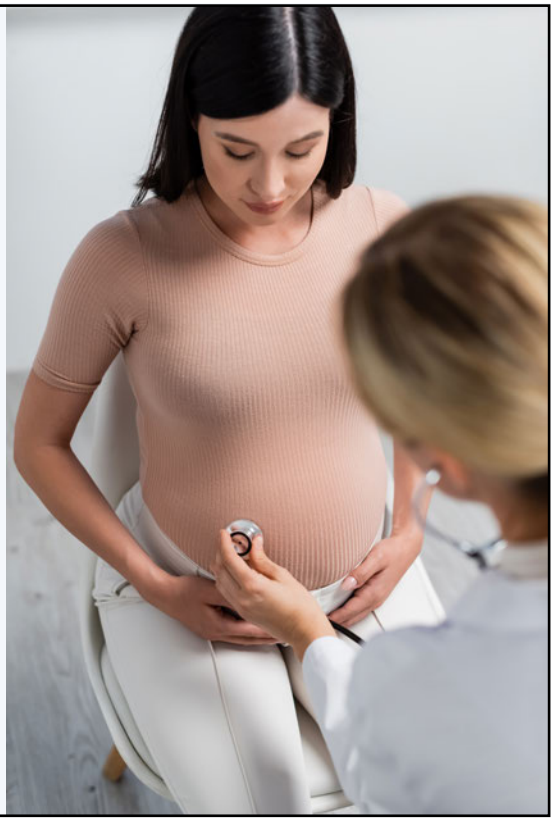
Teen Pregnancy & Immunization Educational Webinar

BOI will host an educational webinar highlighting the importance of preventive care, vaccination, and health education in supporting adolescents and reducing teen pregnancy risks. This session is intended for healthcare providers, educators, and community members interested in promoting adolescent health.

Date: April 8, 2026
Time: 2:00-3:00 PM
Registration Link: https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/669dd385-1bb4-4b28-aead-388bd8dac4c3@418e2841-0128-4dd5-9b6c-47fc5a9a1bde

For more information, please contact Jennifer M. Torres Del Valle, PhD, MPH, MA, Public Health Program Administrator at jtorresdel@pa.gov.

We appreciate your support in sharing these opportunities with families, organizations, and professional networks committed to strengthening adolescent health across our communities.



Upcoming Educational Opportunities and Conferences (Cont.)

Resources for Adult Immunization Providers

Updated Vaccine Schedules:

Adult Immunization Schedule | AAFP

ACOG Releases Updated Guidance on Maternal Immunizations | ACOG

Clinic Support Resources:

Checklist of Current Versions of U.S. COVID-19 Vaccination Guidance and Clinic Support Tools

Billing and Coding Resources:

Top Questions for Medical Benefit Coding and Billing for Vaccines: Avoiding Common Errors

NAIIS Billing and Coding of Adult Vaccines in the Pharmacy

Vaccine Co-administration Resource:

NAIIS Guide for Co-administration of Adult Vaccines

Noteworthy Articles:

Hepatitis B Virus Infection: Adult and Adolescent OIs | NIH

National Institutes of Health Funding for RNA Vaccine Research | JAMA Network

CMS: States No Longer Required to Report Immunizations | JAMA Network

Parent Perception Survey on Adolescent Immunizations

The Adolescent Immunization Program recently released a survey to partner agencies, medical providers and organizations statewide requesting help with dissemination and promotion of a brief Parents' Vaccine Perception Survey designed to better understand perceptions, experiences, and information needs related to adolescent vaccines. Findings will help strengthen future educational initiatives, outreach strategies, and culturally responsive resources that support informed decision-making.

The survey is confidential, takes only a few minutes to complete, and will remain open **until April 17, 2026**.

- **Fast**: just 3–5 minutes
- **Confidential**: responses remain private (no name or e-mail addresses are collected)
- **Impactful**: results will inform future health initiatives

Please share this information with parents and guardians within your networks and encourage them to participate by scanning the QR code below or by clicking **here**:

For more information or questions regarding the survey please contact Jennifer Torres Del Valle at jtorresdel@pa.gov.

Harmful Algal Bloom Survey

As part of the Pennsylvania Department of Health's efforts to increase surveillance for harmful algal bloom (HAB)-related illnesses throughout Pennsylvania, we have developed a short survey to gauge health care provider awareness of HABs and HAB-related illnesses.

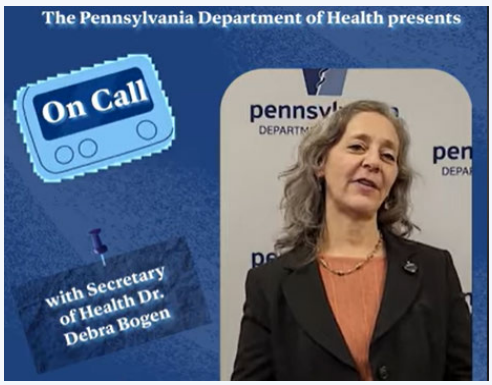
All medical professionals are eligible to complete the survey. This survey is anonymous and voluntary.

The survey can be found **here**.

Survey responses will be accepted until April 2026.

Vaccine Promotion and Education Resources

Pennsylvania Department of Health (PA DOH) New Video Series on Childhood Immunizations



PA DOH is releasing a series of video posts focused on childhood immunizations.

The "On Call" video series is now available as a playlist on PADOH's YouTube channel: On Call: Immunizations.

Additional videos highlighting childhood vaccines will follow. Please consider following PA DOH on: Facebook and "X" (Twitter).

Immunization Information Resources

The State of US Vaccine Policy — Mar 5, 2026 | CIDRAP

Respiratory Virus Activity — United States, July 1, 2024–June 30, 2025 | MMWR

Lawmakers want answers on CDC-funded hepatitis B vaccine trial in Africa | CIDRAP

The Spread of Measles in Pa., U.S. | HAP

Vaccines Are A National Security Issue, Says Global Health Official | Reuters

Contact Us

For general concerns and questions, please call our main line at 888-646-6864.

Vaccines for Children (VFC)

Email: ra-paVFC@pa.gov

Adolescent & Adult Vaccines

Email: ra-dhimmunize@pa.gov

Mpox Vaccine

Email: ra-dhmpox_vax@pa.gov

PIERS

General inquiries:

Email: ra-dhpierssupport@pa.gov

PIERS account and login issues:

Email: ra-dhpiersuseracct@pa.gov