

Information About Vaccine Program Changes



Wyoming
Department
of Health

Commit to your health.

What is WyVIP?

The Wyoming Vaccinates Important People (WyVIP) program provides vaccines for children through many healthcare providers using state and federal funding.

Which children qualify for federal funding?

Money from the federal Vaccines for Children (VFC) program pays for all required and recommended vaccines for children eligible for Medicaid, uninsured children, and American Indian or Alaska Native children.

What are “required” vaccines?

Under Wyoming’s rules, proof of certain immunizations is needed for school. Required for kindergarten: DTaP, polio, MMR, hepatitis B, Hib, and varicella vaccines. Required for 7th grade: Series completion of the other vaccines and Tdap.

I’ve heard things are changing. Will I have to pay for the vaccines the state requires?

While a small administrative fee (less than \$15) is sometimes charged, all “required” vaccines will still be paid for by the WyVIP program.

So what is changing?

The WyVIP program will no longer use state funding to buy hepatitis A, human papillomavirus (HPV), influenza and meningococcal conjugate vaccines. These are each recommended but not required. For some children, federal money can be used to buy these vaccines.

I don’t have insurance. How will I pay?

Federal dollars are used to buy vaccines for children who are uninsured.

What if my insurance doesn’t cover vaccines?

Children are “underinsured” if their policy doesn’t cover vaccines or only some vaccines, or if a child has spent more on vaccines than the policy allows. Federal vaccine money may be used for these children at certain health clinics. Your local public health office can help find these clinics. You can call 866-571-0944 for help finding contact infor-

mation for local offices. Patients who have not yet met policy deductibles are not “underinsured.”

What happens if my child doesn’t qualify for federal help? I have insurance.

We strongly encourage parents to stay on track with all required and recommended vaccines for their children. Many insurance companies will cover the vaccines the state no longer pays for. They may cover the immunizations up front or may pay you back later. To avoid billing surprises, it’s a good idea to research the vaccine coverage your insurance provides ahead of time. Kid Care CHIP coverage is considered insurance.

I have insurance. Can I still get vaccines at my local public health nursing office?

Public health offices will offer all required and recommended vaccines to children eligible for the federal vaccine program, as well as all required vaccines to children with insurance. Some local public health offices may not offer the four vaccines the state is no longer buying to children with insurance. One reason: many offices are not able to bill private insurance companies. If you plan to have your child immunized at a local public health office, we suggest asking about vaccine availability and billing ahead of time.

Why can’t the state keep paying for all vaccines?

More babies are being born, which means more kids to immunize. The costs of certain vaccines have gone up as they’ve been improved. New vaccines such as the one to help prevent chicken pox have been added to our program to meet expert recommendations. All of these things have put tremendous pressure on the program’s budget.

Is this change permanent?

The Wyoming Department of Health recognizes the value of investing in immunizations. We hope to return to full vaccine coverage should future budgets allow.

Where can I get more information?

Please call the Wyoming Department of Health’s Immunization Section at 307-777-7952. (6/2011)