



Back to School with Routine Vaccines



The back-to-school season offers health care providers a chance to re-engage with parents and patients. During this time, providers can share information regarding school vaccination requirements and the benefits of vaccines.

Communication about vaccines is often most successful when parents receive consistent messages from multiple sources and channels including from the school district, school leader or school nurse and local health department. Schools can promote student health, attendance and learning by adding routine immunizations to the back-to-school checklist.

Some activities that providers can conduct to encourage vaccination around back-to-school timeframe are:

- Encouraging parents and guardians with a specific school contact, such as a school nurse.
- Partnering with a local school district to host vaccination events.
- Utilizing the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) communication strategy about common misinformation about routine immunizations
- Displaying back-to-school vaccination [communication materials](#), such as flyers and social media posts.
- Utilizing every health care encounter, whether it's a routine well-child examination, a sports physical, or any other scheduled appointment, as a valuable opportunity to recommend and administer any vaccines that are currently due or may have been missed due to disruptions caused by the pandemic.

Below are some resources providers can use to ensure students are receiving necessary vaccines:

- [Immunizationorderform.com](https://immunizationorderform.com) offers parent-friendly educational materials. Some of the more commonly requested materials from this website include:
 - Immunization Schedule (Ages 18 years or younger) – stock #6-105
 - Let's Talk Immunization brochure - stock #11-11966
 - Vaccinate Through Life - stock #11-15317
 - Junior Disease Detectives: Operation Outbreak Graphic Novel - stock #11-16533
- [DSHS Texas School & Child-Care Facility Immunization](#) and the CDC [SchoolVaxView](#) resource

TVFC/ASN Program Re-Enrollment and Withdrawal Procedure

DSHS 2023 Texas Vaccine for Children (TVFC) and Adult Safety Net (ASN) programs re-enrollment will occur from Monday, October 2 to Tuesday, October 31, 2023.

During this process, to prevent any potential disruptions in vaccine shipments, it is important for providers to have their current enrollment information on file.

Failure to re-enroll by the deadline will result in non-participation in the program for the upcoming year. Sites without a completed re-enrollment will have to follow the standard enrollment process again, including approval procedures.

If, for any reason, a practice decides to withdraw from the TVFC/ASN programs or fails to complete the re-enrollment process, the practice will need to:

- Contact their Responsible Entity (RE)
- Complete the withdrawal form (stock # F11-11443)
- Arrange with the RE the pickup of all TVFC/ASN vaccines and the final paperwork.

For more detailed information regarding withdrawals, please contact your RE or refer to Chapter 1, page 27 of the [2023 TVFC/ASN Provider Manual](#).

Preparing for Flu

As the 2023 – 2024 influenza (flu) season begins, the CDC provide information about the upcoming flu season. The CDC estimates that during the [2021 -2022 flu season](#), the flu vaccine prevented approximately:



- Eight million flu-related illnesses,
- One million medical visits,
- Twenty-thousand hospitalizations, and
- One thousand deaths.

The flu vaccines are updated each season to protect against the four flu variants that research indicates will be the most common during the upcoming season. The flu vaccine is available for people 6 months and older, with few exceptions. It is particularly important for people at high risk of flu-related complications to receive the flu vaccine.

Providers and REs can highlight preventive practices in their community to ensure a safe and healthy flu season by:

- Promoting the annual flu vaccination,
- Encouraging people to cover their mouth and nose when coughing and sneezing,
- Promoting hand hygiene, such as washing hands frequently,
- Avoiding close contact with sick people,
- Encouraging people stay home if you are sick,
- Ensuring ample availability of tissues, soap, paper towels and disposable wipes on-site, and
- Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces.

To learn more information about the flu season, please use the [CDC's flu page](#).

Maximum Stock Levels (MSLs) for Back-to-school

DSHS defines Maximum Stock Levels (MSLs) as the amount of vaccine supply ordered for 75 days. This value can change based on a calculation performed using data on doses administered from June- September of the prior year. The value accommodates schools' vaccine supply during the back-to-school season and ensures providers won't receive a higher vaccine supply amount than needed.

For more information, see page 37 of the [TVFC/ASN Provider Manual](#).

TVFC/ASN Program Fraud and Abuse Policies

DSHS regularly educates providers in TVFC and ASN program(s) on what constitutes fraud and abuse. This education is conducted to ensure vaccine viability, strengthen program integrity, and improve patient health outcomes.

It is important to note that whether actions are intentional or not, they can still fall under the scope of federal fraud and abuse laws.

Defining and Preventing Fraud and Abuse

As defined in the [2023 TVFC/ASN Provider Manual \(Chapter 6: Fraud and Abuse\)](#):

Fraud is an intentional deception or misrepresentation made by a person with the knowledge that the deception could result in an unauthorized benefit to himself or another person. It includes any act that constitutes fraud under applicable federal or state laws.

Abuse is defined as practices that are inconsistent with sound fiscal, business, or medical practices and result in an unnecessary cost to the Medicaid Program (and/or including actions that result in an unnecessary cost to the TVFC program, a health insurance company, or a patient) or in reimbursement for services that are not medically necessary, or that fail to meet professionally recognized standards for health care. It also includes recipient practices that result in unnecessary costs to the Medicaid program.

The best method to prevent providers from committing fraud and abuse is to strongly educate them on the TVFC/ASN requirements during the new enrollment site visits and compliance visits. Both occasions provide the opportunity to identify and prevent situations that may develop into fraud or abuse.

Reporting Fraud and Abuse

Suspected fraud or abuse may be reported to the TVFC/ASN program(s) inboxes:

- TVFC: VacCallCenter@dshs.texas.gov
- ASN: ASNinfo@dshs.texas.gov
- Provider's RE

The REs and DSHS staff must report all alleged or suspected fraud and abuse cases. Reports received by the DSHS Immunization Section in any form that merits further investigation may be referred to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and Medicaid Integrity Group (MIG) Field Group.