

317 Vaccine for Adults (VFA) Program

Frequently Asked Questions

December 2024

General Information

Q: What is 317 VFA vaccine funding?

A: Section 317 of the Public Health Service Act authorizes the federal purchase of vaccines to vaccinate children, adolescents, and adults. Over its 50-year history, 317-purchased vaccine has been directed towards meeting the needs of priority populations; most recently this has been uninsured adults as well as a few other select patient populations (i.e., HepB birth dose). 317 vaccines are part of the “State Supply” vaccines provided via the NCIP.

There are two (2) components of the “State Supply” program.

1. **Vaccines for Children (VFC)** - Provides no cost vaccines to eligible children from birth through age 18 in compliance with recommendations made by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). This includes children who are uninsured, underinsured, Medicaid eligible, and American Indian or Alaska Native.
2. **317 VFA** - Supports immunization of uninsured and underinsured adults as well as a few other select patient populations outlined in the [coverage criteria](#).

Q: Will 317 VFA vaccines be allocated?

A: No. At this time, 317 VFA vaccines will not be allocated. Funding for 317 VFA vaccines is limited. You should order the minimum quantity needed for the month. We are better able to reduce waste and ensure sufficient supply if providers place small orders on a more frequent basis.

Available Vaccines

Q: Which vaccines are available through the 317 VFA ?

A: Currently, Tdap, MMR, VAR, Flu, Twinrix, Hep B, Hep A, Mpox, and COVID-19 vaccines are available. Other vaccines may be offered later based on community need and available funding. Refer to the [coverage criteria](#) for the most recent list of vaccines available through 317 VFA funding.

Q: Will COVID-19 vaccines be available for 317 VFA patients?

A: Yes. COVID-19 vaccines are available for the 2024-2025 season for uninsured and underinsured adults. Refer to the recent memo [Vaccines for Adults \(317\) COVID-19 Vaccines Now Available for Ordering](#).

Q: Will JYNNEOS be available via 317 VFA funding?

A: Yes. We have a limited amount of JYNNEOS for uninsured individuals aged 19 and older. You will NOT order JYNNEOS vaccines for adults through NCIR. Instead, [you can use this link](#) for requesting a JYNNEOS transfer while supplies lasts.

Inventory and Ordering

Q: How can I tell if my inventory is VFC or 317 VFA?

A: If you entered a comment in the order section of NCIR when placing your order noting the order is for 317 VFA adults and the number of doses, then your order is 317 VFA. Additionally, the packing slip in the shipment will indicate 317 VFA.

Q: Will the 317 VFA inventory be separated in NCIR?

A: No. It will continue to be combined with your VFC inventory. However, you can opt to create a subsite to separate your 317 VFA vaccines for inventory management. If you participated in the Bridge Access Program (BAP), that subsite should be inactivated and no longer used. *If you reactivated your BAP subsite or changed the name to reactivate it, you must create a new subsite and discontinue use of the BAP site.* Providers who wish to utilize subsites *and* are also participating in data exchange, can contact the [Data Exchange Help Desk](#) for guidance. The 317 VFA vaccines should be physically labeled as “317 VFA” and stored separately from your VFC and privately purchased stock.

Q: How will it appear in NCIR if 317 VFA doses are differentiated from VFC on the packing slip? Will both VFA and VFC stocks still be under "state" supply?

A: Yes. They will both be listed as "state" in NCIR.

Q: How do we return 317 VFA vaccines?

A: 317 VFA vaccines can be returned via the North Carolina Immunization Registry (NCIR) just as you would for VFC vaccines. Refer to the [NCIR Quick Reference Guide](#) for more information.

Q: Can we borrow private vaccines while we are waiting for the VFA vaccines to be available?

A: You can administer vaccine received prior to Sept 1, 2024 under the previous guidelines. Do not turn away 317 VFA qualifying patients who present for vaccines. Borrowing is not allowed for 317 VFA vaccines received on or after September 1, 2024. You should order 317 VFA vaccines as soon as possible to avoid this issue.

Q: Do we need a different inventory for 317 VFA in our EHR so data exchange will pull it correctly and weekly inventory will reflect combined total number of doses (of VFC & 317 VFA)?

A: Not currently

Q. If we receive a box of 10 doses of varicella. Can we split the box to designate five doses as VFC and five doses as 317 VFA?

A. No. You must designate upon ordering which doses are VFC and which doses are 317 VFA. You cannot request below the minimum order quantity.

Eligibility and Patient Criteria

Q: In my clinic, we see only uninsured adults. Would all my patients count as 317 VFA?

A: Yes. If you only see adults 19 years and older, they would all be 317 VFA, unless otherwise stated in the coverage criteria. You must ensure all orders include a comment in the “Updates to Vaccine Delivery Hours/Special Instructions” box letting NCIP know the entire order is for 317 VFA use. Orders without comments are assumed to be VFC orders which can only be used on VFC-eligible patients.

Q: Why can't I use VFC doses on 317 VFA patients if they are both listed as “STATE” in NCIR?

A. The federal government determines patient eligibility for doses funded through each program. Doses funded through the VFC program may only be administered to VFC-eligible patients. Doses funded with 317 VFA funds may only be administered to 317-eligible patients as noted in the [coverage criteria](#).

Technical Considerations

Q: Is there an additional application required to receive 317 VFA funds for LHDs, RHCs, and FQHCs?

A: No. At this time, VFC-enrolled LHDs, FQHCs, or RHCs are eligible to order 317 VFA vaccines without an additional application. When placing an order, you must list the



number of adult doses needed in the note section of the NCIR order screen. When the vaccines arrive, they should be labeled as “317 VFA” and stored separately from VFC and private stock.

Additional Processes

Q: When documenting in an electronic health record (EHR) such as EPIC, would the 317 VFA still be marked as VFC so that it transfers correctly?

A: Yes. For now, all the 317 VFA administrations will be deducted from your VFC inventory.

Q: What action must be taken if I have adult vaccine I cannot use?

A: Contact the [NCIR Help Desk](#) at least three months before your vaccine expires. We will facilitate transferring the vaccine to other clinics enrolled in the program. We recommend providers order only a 4-to-6-week supply (or the minimum order quantity) at a time to help avoid this scenario.

Q. Can we transfer 317 VFA doses to other enrolled clinics?

A: Yes, however, the clinic must be an enrolled LHD, FQHC, RHC, or participating 317 VFA provider. You must inform the receiving site that the doses are 317 VFA doses and can only be used for eligible adult populations. Vaccine transfers should not be a routine practice.

For assistance, contact the NCIR Help Desk by

Phone: 1.877.USE.NCIR (873-6247)

Email: ncirhelp@dhhs.nc.gov

