



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

ROY COOPER • Governor
MANDY COHEN, MD, MPH • Secretary
MARK T. BENTON • Assistant Secretary for Public Health
Division of Public Health

November 25, 2020

MEMORANDUM

TO: North Carolina Immunization Program (NCIP) Participants

FROM: Wendy Holmes, RN, Head *WH*
Immunization Branch

SUBJECT: Important: 2020 Holiday VFC Shipping Schedule

The purpose of this memo is to provide important details regarding the upcoming November and December vaccine shipping schedule for vaccines under the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. Specific information related to COVID-19 vaccine shipping as applicable will be provided separately when available. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), recommends that providers assess their vaccine needs and ability to store vaccine safely to vaccinate your VFC patients through January 4, 2021, and submit orders early before limited delivery occurs. CDC recommends maintaining adequate supply of all vaccines to immunize your patients in case shipping delays occur.

In the event your practice is closed for an extended length of time during the holidays, wait until your practice re-opens to place an order. To avoid shipment delays, please notify the Immunization Branch Help Desk if your hours of operation and/or shipping address have changed. The Immunization Branch Help Desk is available to assist with vaccine orders or questions during normal business hours at 1-877-873-6247.

Reminder: When providers have a FedEx/UPS signature release on file, it allows FedEx/UPS to drop off any FedEx/UPS package, including vaccine shipments, without a signature and regardless of the provider's office hours. In this case, the temperature monitors in the box could trigger before the provider discovers the package. **CDC and NCIP will not replace a package that has spoiled under these circumstances. We strongly encourage you to cancel your signature release on file with FedEx to prevent a loss of vaccine, due to shipment(s) being left on your doorstep when your practice is closed.**

November 2020 VFC Ordering and Shipping Schedule

- The NCIP will accept vaccine orders throughout the month of November, except for the following state government holidays, Nov. 26 and 27, 2020.
- Providers will not receive vaccine shipments from McKesson Specialty or Merck from Friday, Nov. 20 through Friday, Nov. 27, 2020.

State Government Holidays in November	Thursday, Nov. 26 and Friday, Nov. 27, 2020
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NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH, IMMUNIZATION BRANCH

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December 2020 VFC Ordering and Shipping Schedule

- The NCIP will accept vaccine orders Monday, Nov. 30 through Monday, Dec. 7, 2020.
- The last day orders will be accepted is Monday, Dec. 7, by 11:00 am.
- Orders received after 11:00 am on Monday, Dec. 7, will not be processed until Monday, Jan. 4, 2021.
- Vaccine shipments for orders placed on Monday, Dec. 7, before the cut-off, may arrive at your practice during the week of Dec. 14, 2020.
- CDC will not ship vaccine beginning on Tuesday, Dec. 22, through Friday, Jan. 1, 2021.

State Government Holidays in December	Thursday, Friday and Monday, Dec. 24, 25, and Dec. 28, 2020
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January 2021 VFC Ordering and Shipping Schedule

- The NCIP will resume ordering on Monday, Jan. 4, 2021.
- The NCIP will resume its normal shipping schedule on Monday, Jan. 4, 2021.

State Government Holidays in January	Friday, Jan. 1, and Monday, Jan. 18, 2021
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Except for state government holidays, the Immunization Branch Help Desk will be available at 1-877-873-6247 to provide assistance.

cc: SMT, Regional Immunization Staff, CO Staff, Vaccine Manufacturers, Frank Skwara
Terri Pennington, Peter Graber, Ann Nichols, Harita Patel, Taryn Edwards, Gregg Griggs, Elizabeth Hudgins