



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE
Ashwin Vasani, MD, PhD
Commissioner
Gotham Center
42-09 28th St.
Long Island City, NY 11101

October 30, 2023

Dear Vaccines For Children Provider,

We are writing to provide important updates about Vaccines For Children (VFC) program policies for the COVID-19 vaccine and RSV monoclonal antibody, nirsevimab (Beyfortus).

VFC providers are required to have both products available for VFC-eligible patients when supply allows. COVID-19 vaccine is currently in good supply, and providers should ensure they have vaccine available for their VFC-eligible children. CDC recently instituted allocation caps for VFC nirsevimab due to supply constraints. VFC providers who would like to order nirsevimab should email nycimmunize@health.nyc.gov and include their PIN, immunization presentation (100mg or 50mg), and the number of requested doses.

While VFC providers are generally required to also maintain private inventory for VFC products, the program is allowing temporary flexibility to meet the private inventory requirements for COVID-19 vaccine and nirsevimab:

- VFC providers are not required to meet the private inventory requirements until March 31, 2024 for COVID-19 vaccine and August 1, 2024, for nirsevimab.
- If providers do not maintain private inventory of these products during this time, they should support their privately insured patients to find these products in the community (see NYC's [Vaccine Finder](#) for COVID-19 vaccination sites).

Bidirectional borrowing between public and private inventory of COVID-19 vaccine will be allowed for the 2023-2024 respiratory virus season. Borrowing is only applicable if the provider is purchasing private stock and is approved only when:

- There is a lack of vaccine stock because of delayed or spoiled shipments.
- Vaccine will expire soon and will be lost if not used. Provider locations with a small privately insured patient population can use this option to administer short-dated, privately purchased vaccine to a VFC-eligible child and replace it with a longer-dated, VFC dose.

Bidirectional borrowing of nirsevimab is also allowed during the 2023-2024 respiratory virus season, but given supply constraints, approval to borrow will be decided on a case-by-case basis. Providers must email nycimmunize@health.nyc.gov for approval; approval must be granted prior to borrowing.

Borrowed product must be repaid (dose for dose) within one month or after every 5 doses borrowed. The same COVID-19 vaccine product borrowed must be repaid. Vaccine replacement must be tracked in the [Citywide Immunization Registry \(CIR\)](#) through the Vaccine Inventory Management (VIM) portal.

Please email questions to nycimmunize@health.nyc.gov. Thank you for your continuing efforts to protect NYC residents from vaccine-preventable illnesses.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Bindy Crouch'.

Bindy Crouch, MD, MPH
Assistant Commissioner
Bureau of Immunization