



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE
Michelle Morse, MD, MPH
Acting Health Commissioner

November 6, 2025

Dear Vaccines for Children (VFC) Provider,

We are writing to notify you of a policy change to the Universal Perinatal Hepatitis B Vaccination Program:

- **Effective July 1, 2025, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention no longer allow the use of Section 317-funded hepatitis B vaccines for newborns who are privately insured** (also referred to as commercially insured).
 - This is similar to the model used for coverage of the RSV monoclonal antibodies that are administered to newborns.
- To allow hospitals time to plan for this change, the NYC Health Department has been and will continue to fund hepatitis B vaccines for newborns who are privately insured through January 31, 2026.
- Effective February 1, 2026, the NYC Health Department will no longer provide hepatitis B vaccines for newborns who are privately insured.
- The NYC Health Department encourages all NYC birthing facilities continue providing a universal hepatitis B birth dose to all newborns despite these changes.

Since 2001, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices has recommended that a birth dose of hepatitis B vaccine be administered universally to all infants born in the United States. The current recommendation is that the dose be administered within 24 hours after birth for medically stable newborns weighing ≥ 2 kg. The provision of hepatitis B vaccine to all infants at birth protects infants who do not receive appropriate prophylactic treatment to prevent hepatitis B virus transmission prenatally or at birth, and to infants who are exposed to hepatitis B postnatally from another family member or caregiver.

We ask that NYC birthing facilities use the time between now and February 1, 2026, to begin purchasing their own supply of hepatitis B vaccine for privately insured newborns and establishing a method to be reimbursed later by private insurance payments. Furthermore, birthing facilities should work with their electronic medical records vendor to ensure their reporting systems are accurately recording eligibility for publicly-funded doses.

At this time, birthing facilities will still be able to receive hepatitis B vaccine through the NYC VFC program for VFC-eligible newborns as long as they ensure compliance with VFC policies, including:

- Screening for VFC eligibility and reporting VFC eligibility to the Citywide Immunization Registry
- Separating public and private vaccine stock
- Ensuring adequate supply of vaccine for commercially insured patients
- Complying with the [NYC VFC Vaccine Replacement Policy](#)

Refer to the [VFC Vaccine Agreement](#) for a complete list of VFC program requirements.

Please email nycimmunize@health.nyc.gov with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bindy Crouch".

Bindy Crouch, MD, MPH
Assistant Commissioner
Bureau of Immunization