

September 17, 2025

RE: MEDI-CAL COVERAGE OF VACCINES

Dear DHCS Stakeholders:

The recent enactment of Assembly Bill (AB) 144 (Budget Act of 2025) requires Medi-Cal to cover vaccines and immunizations in accordance with a recommendation from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Academy of Family Physicians, OR any modification or supplement to ACIP recommendations adopted by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). As a result, Medi-Cal will continue to cover COVID-19 vaccinations for all persons age 6 months and older, consistent with current CDPH recommendations and regardless of federal ACIP recommendation, pursuant to AB 144.

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) notes that the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program only covers vaccines that are ACIP-recommended. However, with AB 144, Medi-Cal will have the ability to cover childhood vaccines outside of VFC if recommended by one or all the above organizations, even if ACIP does not recommend them. DHCS also notes that AB 144 will authorize pharmacists to furnish specified vaccines in a manner consistent with a recommendation made by CDPH.

DHCS will be issuing an update to All Plan Letter 24-008 *Immunizations Requirements* as soon as possible to clarify Medi-Cal managed care plan requirements. We are sharing this update now to provide clarity on the direction DHCS is moving.

Sincerely,

Karen E. Mark, MD, PhD

Medical Director

California Department of Health Care Services