



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE

Ashwin Vasani, MD, PhD
Commissioner

August 30, 2022

Dear Colleague,

In follow-up to our previous letters in May and July, the New York City (NYC) Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Health Department) is reaching out for the final time to encourage your practice to apply for up to \$10,000 to support expanded access to COVID-19 vaccines for children ages 11 and younger through the NYC Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccination Support Program. **The deadline for applying for up to \$10,000 in support funds is September 30.**

As parents and children are coming to your office for back-to-school physical exams, this is a great time to offer the COVID-19 vaccine. Many parents strongly prefer to have their children vaccinated by their child's regular health care provider, city-run mass vaccination sites for children have closed, and pharmacists cannot vaccinate children under 3 years of age, making your participation critical to increasing pediatric COVID-19 coverage in NYC. Only 49% of children ages 5 to 12 years in NYC have completed a COVID-19 primary vaccine series and vaccination of children younger than 5 years has been lagging behind other age groups.

Funding can be used for activities that support COVID-19 vaccination for children ages 11 and younger, including paying for overtime hours for administrative or clinical staff, producing vaccine education materials, purchasing vaccine storage units and temperature monitoring devices, and connecting your practice's electronic health records system to the Citywide Immunization Registry (CIR) via the HL7 webservice. The purpose of this funding opportunity is to address challenges to offering pediatric COVID-19 vaccination raised by providers.

To be eligible to participate in this funding opportunity, your practice must meet the following requirements:

- Operate within NYC
- Be an independent healthcare practice that is not owned or operated by a hospital or federally qualified health center
 - Urgent care centers, pharmacies, and mass vaccination sites are not eligible for this program
- Have a nurse practitioner or a physician licensed to practice medicine in the State of New York
- Provide primary or specialty healthcare services, including immunizations, to children ages 11 and younger
- Be registered with CIR and have a CIR Facility Code
- Have a New York City Payee Information Portal (PIP) number (to obtain a PIP number, visit <https://a127-pip.nyc.gov/webapp/PRDPCW/SelfService>)

Practices already administering COVID-19 vaccine may still participate in this program. These practices are not eligible for funds related to enrollment in the COVID-19 Vaccination Program but are eligible for funds for other activities.

To participate and receive funds, practices must complete the following steps:

1. Submit the online application that will take approximately 10 minutes to complete (<https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/6849402/Pediatric-Vaccination-Support-Program>) by September 30, 2022.
2. Enter into a contract with the Fund for Public Health in New York City.
3. Complete required program activities:
 - a. Enroll in the NYC COVID-19 Vaccination Program, if not already enrolled
 - b. Complete the online COVID-19 Vaccination Program survey, including a description of your COVID-19 vaccination plan and plans for use of the funds
 - c. By November 15, 2022, report at least 100 doses of COVID-19 vaccine administered to children ages 11 years and younger in the Citywide Immunization Registry; practices are expected to incorporate COVID-19 vaccination during regular patient visits, but doses administered during vaccine-only sessions can also be counted
4. Submit invoices to nycreach@health.nyc.gov for all activities completed.

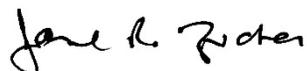
Please note we would like participating practices to focus on vaccinating their regular patients; we are not asking practices to open their services to the general public.

Additional program materials, including Frequently Asked Questions, webinar slides, and a webinar recording are available here: <https://nycreach.org/pediatric-covid-19-vaccine-support-program>.

Health Department staff are available to help you enroll and complete program requirements. Email nycreach@health.nyc.gov with questions or for assistance.

Thank you for your commitment to promoting and protecting the health of New Yorkers.

Sincerely,



Jane R. Zucker, MD, MSc
Assistant Commissioner
Bureau of Immunization