

## Places to Refer Children and Teenagers for Vaccines in Arizona

### Places that Give Immunizations

- The patient's own physician or health care provider
- Vaccines for Children providers
- County health departments
- Community health centers
- Pharmacies
- The county health department
- Travel Clinics
- Immunization clinics
- Occupational health clinics
- Community immunization clinics and events

The location where parents can find immunizations for their children depends on whether or not the child has a health insurance policy that covers vaccines, and the age of the child.

### **The Patient's Own Physician or Health Care Provider:**

Families will need to discuss which insurance plans their providers accept, the vaccines that the providers carry, and (where applicable) whether or not the provider is a Vaccine for Children (VFC) provider. See below for information about the VFC program.

### **Vaccines for Children Program (VFC)**

The VFC Program is a federally-funded program that provides free vaccines for children 0 through 18 years of age who are:

- without health insurance; or
- enrolled in AHCCCS (Medicaid); or
- American Indian or Alaskan Native.

These children can get immunizations at little or no cost from health care providers who are enrolled in the VFC program. VFC providers include [county health departments](#), [community health centers](#), tribal health departments, Indian Health Services, and many pediatricians and family practitioners.

### **County Health Departments:**

Children who have health insurance coverage can no longer get free vaccines at their county health department. However, some county health departments are able to provide vaccines to insured children if the county health department has established a billing system to charge health insurance companies for the cost of the vaccines. Families will need to check with their [county health department](#) for full details.

### **Community Health Centers:**

People who do not have health insurance can often work with [community health centers](#) to get care on a sliding scale. Community health centers also usually accept patients who have health insurance. Check with the specific community health center for further details.

**Pharmacies:**

Arizona state law allows pharmacies to vaccinate children as young as 6 years old. Pharmacies can give vaccines to children (ages 6-17 years old) as long as they have a prescription from a health care provider. However, a prescription is not needed for a child to get an influenza vaccine at a pharmacy. The lowest age limit for children to be vaccinated at a pharmacy may vary by pharmacy.

Often parents have to pay cash to get their child vaccinated at a pharmacy. This is because many pharmacies and many insurance companies have not established contracts with each other that cover vaccines. Therefore, even if parents have health insurance that covers vaccines, they may have to pay cash at the pharmacy, and then submit the charge to their health insurance company for reimbursement. Families need to check with their health insurance company and the specific pharmacy for full details.

**Travel Clinics, Immunization Clinics, and Occupational Health Clinics:**

These locations often have contracts with health insurance companies for giving vaccines. The family will need to check with the specific clinic to find out the youngest age of the child that they will accept, what vaccines they carry, and if they accept the child's health insurance coverage. Some of these clinics include [Passport Health](#), [Mollen Immunization Clinics](#), and [Concentra](#).

**Community Immunization Clinics and Events:**

[Community Information and Referral Services](#) (CIR; also known as 2-1-1- Arizona) has extensive information about locations throughout Arizona that provide immunizations. Some of the locations can provide free vaccines for children and teenagers. Check the [CIR website](#) and look under the section of Health and Dental Care for the link for Childhood Immunizations or Adolescent/Adult Immunizations. CIR also gives information by telephone by dialing 211 to get information in English and Spanish.