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GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor

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TO: California Vaccines for Children (VFC) Providers

FROM: Robert Schechter, M.D., Chief 
Center for Infectious Diseases
Division of Communicable Disease Control, Immunization Branch

SUBJECT: AB 1797 – New Requirement to Submit Immunization Data

Key takeaways from this letter:



- ✓ State law (AB 1797) now requires all California providers to report vaccine administration information into a California Immunization Registry.
- ✓ VFC Program requirements also include reporting vaccine administration into a California Immunization Registry.
- ✓ Steps and Tips for your practice to submit required vaccine administration information.

BACKGROUND

[AB 1797](#), a new California bill effective January 1, 2023, requires all California providers to enter every immunization administered, as well as a patient's race and ethnicity, into a California immunization registry ([CAIR](#) OR [Healthy Futures/RIDE](#)). For more information, see the California Department of Public Health's [AB 1797 Immunization Registry FAQs](#).

As a result of this law, all active participants of California's VFC Program are now required to enter all vaccine doses administered into CAIR or or RIDE, in accordance to AB 1797, and as indicated in the 2023 VFC Provider Participation Agreement. If your practice is not yet enrolled in a California immunization registry, or is enrolled but not actively submitting data to a California immunization registry, we encourage your practice to refer to information in this communication to take the steps to enroll and submit data to CAIR or RIDE.

On a related note, the [Digital Vaccine Record](#) (DVR) can now help your patients obtain a summary report of all immunizations recorded in the registry without having to contact the clinic for help. Providers are encouraged to submit into the registry all historical



immunization records to improve completeness of records for all users, including patients accessing their DVRs.

ENROLLING IN AN IMMUNIZATION REGISTRY

If you're not sure if your practice is already participating in an immunization registry, contact the CAIR Help Desk (CAIRHelpdesk@cdph.ca.gov or 800-578-7889). CAIR also has [Local CAIR Representatives](#) that can support you with any questions you may have. For more information about CAIR, or to start the enrollment process, visit the [CAIR website](#).

Providers in Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, Mariposa, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, or Tuolumne counties will need to contact the [Healthy Futures/RIDE](#) Help Desk at (209) 468-2292, or support@myhealthyfutures.org, for enrollment support, general assistance or specific questions.

In addition to meeting California law (AB 1797) and complying with VFC Program participation requirements, there are many benefits to participating in an immunization registry. These include [saving time, improving patient care, and helping you quickly run vaccine usage and inventory reports required for VFC vaccine ordering](#).

LINKING YOUR REGISTRY ID TO YOUR VFC ACCOUNT

If you have a CAIR ID or Healthy Futures/RIDE ID, make sure it has been added to your VFC practice profile.

VFC providers were asked for their CAIR ID or Healthy Futures/RIDE ID during the 2023 VFC recertification. If you need to add or edit your ID after submitting recertification, click on the "Update Practice Information" link on your [myVFCvaccines](#) account.

SUBMITTING VACCINE ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

According to VFC provider participation requirements:

- Providers agree to enter all vaccine doses administered into the California Immunization Registry (CAIR), or an approved immunization information system, in accordance with all specified elements of AB 1797.
- Vaccine administration information submission to the California Immunization Registry (CAIR) or RIDE/Healthy Futures, must include specifics about the vaccine, eligibility category by dose, as well as a patient's race and ethnicity.
- Reporting should occur within the same day of administration, but no later than 14 days (VFC Provider Agreement Item #14).

Note: documentation into an electronic health/medical record (EHR/EMR) system is sufficient if data is transmitted from your EHR/EMR system to CAIR or RIDE/Healthy Futures.

If you are already submitting doses to an immunization registry, here are a few tips and reminders:

- Make sure they are being accurately entered. Doses reported as administered in your routine VFC vaccine requests should match doses reported as administered in the registry. Providers can run [doses administered reports](#) to verify that doses administered are being accurately recorded in the registry vs. doses you may be manually tracking via a manual vaccine administration log.
- Review any available reports to ensure VFC eligibility status is being recorded appropriately and submitted accordingly.
- If your organization uses data exchange (DX), CAIR requires that you set up at least one staff with a Data Exchange Quality Assurance (DX QA) user role in CAIR. The DX QA user role allows access to the CAIR “Check Status” page for [monitoring data submissions and data quality](#). For more information, visit the Data Exchange Monitoring Resources section on the [CAIR2 User Guides](#) webpage.

RESOURCES

- To learn more about the requirement to submit doses into CAIR (AB 1797), the [2023 immunization schedule](#) and the Digital Vaccine Record (DVR), [watch the recording](#) or [view the slides](#) from the latest Afternoon TEAch webinar (April 2023).
- For more information about CAIR, visit the [CAIR website](#) and refer to the [Join California’s Immunization Registry!](#) resource to guide your practice on best CAIR2 setups that work best for your practice.
- For more information about this new requirement, see the [AB 1797 FAQs](#).
- [VFC’s 2023 Program Participation Requirements at a Glance](#) reflect updated registry participation and reporting requirements.