

Response to Questions on the FY 2010 County's Line of Business & Schools Program Review Processes Fall 2008

Request By: Supervisor Foust

Question: Are children being immunized by the Health Department not eligible for Medicaid? If they are eligible for Medicaid, what is the County doing to get them signed up?

Response: The County actively tries to link all uninsured children with appropriate programs, including Medicaid. Health Department Family Assistance Workers provide individuals/families with the Medicaid application (FAMIS Application Form for Pregnant Women and Children); and/or complete forms for the safety net assessment (e.g. Medical Care for Children MCCP), Kaiser Bridge Program, and/or Community Health Care Network. Staff also assists in the completion of any other appropriate program application.

In the case of child immunizations, the County administers the vaccine in the interest of public health prior to referring the child's family to the Family Assistance Worker. The Code of Virginia (22.1-271.2 Immunization Requirements) requires that all children receive immunizations prior to entry into schools and day care. In addition, a goal of Healthy People 2010, a federal set of health objectives for the nation, is to have 90 percent of all two-year olds properly immunized.

The cost of school age immunizations can be covered by the Virginia Vaccines for Children (VVFC) Program, if the child meets the programs eligibility requirements. Under the VVFC Program, the Health Department is able to utilize vaccines provided by the Virginia Department of Health free of charge. To meet VVFC eligibility requirements, the client must be under the age of 19 and be one of the following: enrolled in Medicaid (including Medicaid HMOs), uninsured, Native American or Alaskans.

For VVFC eligible children needing immunizations for school entrance, the VVFC covers the cost of the vaccine and its administration costs. For vaccines not required for school entrance but important for public health (i.e. Hepatitis A), the VVFC covers the cost of the vaccine, and the County charges a \$12 fee to cover the costs of administering the vaccine.

Children who are not VVFC eligible also can receive free school entrance vaccinations at a cost to the County; however if the shot is not required for school entrance, the families of these children pay for both the vaccine and the \$12 administration cost.