

## National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD) communications resource roundup

*This communication applies to the Medicaid programs for Simply Healthcare Plans, Inc. (Simply) and Clear Health Alliance (CHA) as well as the Florida Healthy Kids (FHK) program.*

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, a significant drop in well visits has resulted in vaccination delays. Many patients may have cancelled or missed appointments and essential vaccines, putting them at risk for dangerous diseases. Simply has prioritized immunization compliance efforts to address concerns related to secondary outbreaks of vaccine-preventable illnesses.

The NCIRD has developed materials to remind parents that well-child visits and vaccinations are essential. These include:

- A new webpage: [Routine Vaccination During the COVID-19 Outbreak](#)
- A new web feature: [Well-Child Visits are Essential](#)
- [Social media graphics and content](#)

### Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on pediatric vaccination

The CDC assessed the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on pediatric vaccination in the United States. The study, published [in the May 8 issue of the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report \(MMWR\)](#), found notable reductions in the number of vaccine doses ordered through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. A second study published in the [May 18 issue of the MMWR](#) found that vaccination coverage declined in all milestone age cohorts, except for birth-dose hepatitis B coverage. Up-to-date series coverage for each age cohort was lower for Medicaid-enrolled children than for other children.

### Resources and trainings

- Webinar: Acute Flaccid Myelitis: What Healthcare Providers Need to Know in 2020: July 8, 2020 – 1:00 pm EDT.
  - Acute Flaccid Myelitis (AFM) is a serious neurologic condition that affects mostly children. In preparation for a possible AFM outbreak in 2020, CDC wants to make sure clinicians can promptly recognize AFM symptoms, appropriately manage patients, and report suspected cases. [Get more information and register.](#)
- **Guidance for Immunization Services During the COVID-19 Pandemic**
  - CDC has issued [Interim Guidance for Immunization Services](#) during the COVID-19 Pandemic to help immunization providers in a variety of clinical settings plan for safe vaccine administration during the COVID-19 pandemic. This guidance will be updated as the COVID-19 pandemic evolves.
- **Fact Sheet and Feature Article: Vaccines for Children Program**
  - Parents may not be aware that their children are eligible for free vaccines through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. This updated [one-page handout](#) for parents of children ages 0–18 years is easy

<https://provider.simplyhealthcareplans.com/florida-provider>

<https://provider.clearhealthalliance.com/florida-provider>

Simply Healthcare Plans, Inc. is a Managed Care Plan with a Florida Medicaid contract. Simply Healthcare Plans, Inc. dba Clear Health Alliance is a Managed Care Plan with a Florida Medicaid contract.

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to print and share. CDC has also updated its [VFC feature article](#). Please consider sharing via your social media channels.

- **Updated: Healthy Pregnancy Tips Videos**

- CDC has created [60-second](#), [30-second](#) and [6-second](#) versions of the Healthy Pregnancy Tips video. These YouTube videos explain why vaccines are an important part of every pregnancy. They are perfect for sharing with pregnant women via your social media channels.

For more information contact the CDC at **1-800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636)** or TTY: **888-232-6348**