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### BFHD Updates for Immunization Providers

For many families, primary care providers and clinics are the trusted source for medical care and information. This includes COVID-19 vaccination. COVID-19 vaccination can and should be part of the usual preventive care that children and families receive. Childhood immunization providers who are not providing COVID-19 vaccination can still sign up to be a provider by [filling out this form](#). Benton-Franklin Health District would like to make providers aware of information that may affect your patients' expectations regarding COVID-19 vaccinations as well as a new reimbursement available..

### Washington DOH to Send Letter to Parents Regarding Overdue Vaccinations

*Letter to address past due vaccinations for 4- to 6-year-olds*

Area childhood immunization providers that a letter will be sent to parents/guardians in our counties from the Washington DOH this week regarding overdue childhood immunizations. The letter focuses on reminding parents/guardians the importance immunizations for children currently age 4 to 6 years of age.

The letter will also contain information encouraging parents/guardians to get their COVID-19 vaccination, along with anyone else in their household 12 years of age or older. Since COVID-19 vaccinations may be given at the same time as any other routine vaccinations, families may expect to receive all necessary and recommended vaccines at their visit rather than having to make arrangements to get their COVID-19 vaccinations at another location. Reducing the number of additional appointments and missed days off work also reduces barriers for families hardest hit by health inequities.

If you are not currently providing COVID vaccine, other area providers can be found at [vaccinelocator.doh.wa.gov](http://vaccinelocator.doh.wa.gov). CBC-West off Argent St. in Pasco is also giving all brands of vaccination for age 12 plus Friday through Sunday from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. More information can be found on our website at [covid19.bfhd.wa.gov](http://covid19.bfhd.wa.gov).

### Governor Inslee Makes Emergency Proclamation Reimbursing Providers for Proactive COVID-19 Vaccine Counseling Visits

*Effective June 28, providers could seek reimbursement for vaccine counseling*

Patients rely heavily on their providers for not only health care and testing, but also knowledge and medical advice. To help in the fight against COVID-19, Gov. Inslee and the Office of the Insurance Commissioner are making provisions to allow COVID-19 vaccine counseling visits with patients a reimbursable service. Providers must meet certain parameters in order to utilize this new billable service.

Please [download the updated Apple Health \(Medicaid\) COVID vaccine billing policy](#) for more information.