

AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKA NATIVE (AI/AN) Vaccines For Children (VFC) Status Definition and FAQs

Revised 3/13/09

American Indian or Alaska Native (AI/AN) status definition: As defined by the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1603). Such terms shall mean any individual who (1), irrespective of whether he or she lives on or near a reservation, is a member of a tribe, band, or other organized group of Indians, including those tribes, bands, or groups terminated since 1940 and those recognized now or in the future by the State in which they reside, or who is a descendant, in the first or second degree, of any such member, or (2) is an Eskimo or Aleut or other Alaska Native, or (3) is considered by the Secretary of the Interior to be an Indian for any purpose, or (4) is determined to be an Indian under regulations promulgated by the Secretary of the Interior.

Children with AI/AN status are VFC eligible and are subject to VFC eligibility guidelines.

American Indian or Alaska Native (AI/AN) status questions:

- Q.** What is the child's VFC status if they are American Indian or Alaska Native and they have private insurance?
- A.** The child is a) considered AI/AN and VFC eligible to receive VFC vaccine and b) the provider can and bill the insurance plan the maximum allowable vaccine administration fee (but not bill the insurance for the vaccine).
- Q.** Does Alaska native mean anyone born in Alaska or does it mean someone from an Alaskan Eskimo/Aleut tribe?
- A.** The latter - a member of an Alaskan Eskimo/Aleut tribe.
- Q:** What is the child's VFC status if they are an American Indian or Alaska Native (AI/AN) and eligible for health care through Indian Health Service (IHS) or a tribal facility?
- A:** The child is VFC eligible because they are American Indian or Alaska Native.
- Q:** What is the VFC status if the child is American Indian or Alaska Native and a resident of Canada?
- A:** Children enrolled in an Indian tribe from Canada and not living in the United States are not eligible for the VFC Program.
- Q:** Will tribal clinics be exempt from screening for VFC status since they see only American Indians or Alaska Natives?
- A:** This will have to be determined on a clinic-by-clinic basis. The exemption will have to be approved by DOH Immunization Program CHILD Profile, and the exempt status will need to be reviewed and approved annually at the time the VFC Provider Agreement is signed.