



**GOVERNMENT OF
THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES**

**VIRGIN ISLANDS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM**

Re: Request for Video Production – Exemption Video
Immunization Program 2026 – 2027 Promotional Campaign

Dear Vendors,

The USVI Department of Health Maternal and Child Health Clinic is responsible for educating parents who have decided to exempt their children from vaccination. They clinic has developed a training module with information provided by the CDC to educate parents about the importance of immunization in hopes to change their mind about exemption.

Currently, a video from the CDC website is used to compliment the training. However, as part of the Immunization Program's 2026-2027 promotional campaign, we are seeking the services of a producer and director, to create a locally developed video that that best reflects our message and addresses the following areas of concern:

- USVI inability to sustain an outbreak - great physicians/clinicians, but limited resources
- Cost of care for parents/guardians if a child becomes ill
- Myth vs. Fact

Ensure that the video is culturally sensitive, but focus on the following vaccines:

- Meningitis
- MMR
- Hepatitis B

The video production must consist of the following:

1. Talent acquisition for video
2. Production and formatting for television broadcasting
3. Production and formatting for cinema advertising
4. The video should be no longer than 2minutes.

Additionally, please see the public statement below from the DOH regarding it's stance on childhood vaccination requirements in response to the most recent federal changes.

Sincerely,

V. Lawrence

Veronica Lawrence
Dept of Health - Immunization Program
Office Manager



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**U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Health Affirms
Its Use of the Prior Vaccine Schedule**

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS — The Virgin Islands Department of Health is assuring families, healthcare providers, and the wider community that the childhood and adolescent vaccination schedule in the Territory remains unchanged. Children in the U.S. Virgin Islands should continue to receive routine vaccines on the same schedule that has long been used to protect their health and well-being.

“Parents and caregivers can feel confident that the vaccines recommended for children in the U.S. Virgin Islands are safe, effective, and guided by strong scientific evidence,” said Health Commissioner Justa Encarnacion. “Our priority is, and has always been, protecting the health of our children and our community. Nothing about that commitment has changed.”

Earlier this month, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced revisions to its childhood immunization schedule that reduced or removed routine recommendations for several vaccines.

While the CDC schedule is often used as a reference, vaccination guidance in the U.S. Virgin Islands is based on careful review of scientific evidence and expert consensus. Following review, the VI Department of Health has determined that the revised CDC schedule does not reflect new scientific findings and does not align with long-standing pediatric and infectious disease guidance.

The VI Department of Health will continue to follow the childhood and adolescent immunization schedule recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and supported by the Infectious Diseases Society of America.

“These schedules are developed by leading medical and public health experts who carefully review scientific research to determine the safest and most effective ways to prevent serious diseases,” Commissioner Encarnacion said.

The U.S. Virgin Islands is not alone in this decision. Many states and jurisdictions across the country have also reaffirmed their commitment to evidence-based vaccination guidance developed by pediatric and medical experts.

To date, a majority of states have publicly stated they will continue to recommend the prior childhood vaccine schedule rather than adopt the new CDC changes. These states plan to follow the AAP's recommendations, professional guidance, or their own longstanding public health policy rather than the revised federal schedule.

States continuing to follow prior immunization guidance include California, Colorado, Connecticut, Hawaii, Illinois, Kansas, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin and District of Columbia.

Routine childhood vaccines protect against serious and sometimes life-threatening illnesses, including hepatitis A and B, measles, mumps, rubella, polio, chickenpox, pneumococcal and meningococcal disease, rotavirus, influenza, RSV, HPV, and COVID-19. Maintaining routine vaccination helps prevent outbreaks and protects not only individual children, but families, schools, and the broader community.

Local health data also highlight the importance of continuing routine vaccination in the Territory. Cases of hepatitis B, including chronic infections, are still reported in the U.S. Virgin Islands, reinforcing the need to protect infants and children through timely immunization.

What families should know:

- Newborns should continue to receive the hepatitis B vaccine at birth
- Children and adolescents should continue receiving vaccines on the regular schedule
- There are no changes to vaccine availability, insurance coverage, or public health services.

Healthcare providers are encouraged to continue vaccinating according to the recommended schedule, to talk with families using clear and evidence-based information, and to report immunizations to the Virgin Islands Immunization Registry System.

The U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Health remains committed to supporting families with trusted information and to protecting our community from vaccine-preventable diseases.

For more information about the USVI vaccine schedule, visit www.doh.vi.gov.

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Our Mission: "To Reduce Health Risks, Increase Access to Quality Healthcare and Enforce Health Standards"