



PA VFC Program News



Winter 2012

School Immunization Regulation

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The school immunization regulations became effective on August 1, 2011, for the 2011-2012 school year. The amendments require that children in all grades receive a second dose of mumps vaccine and of varicella vaccine and that students in seventh grade have one dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4) and one dose of tetanus, diphtheria and acellular pertussis vaccine (Tdap). The amendments clarify the immunization requirements that apply to children under the age of 5 years who attend child care group settings located in a school, as well as allow for a four-day grace period for vaccines given too early for age or minimum interval between doses. The regulations also allow for an eight-month provisional period from the first day of school. This means that students have eight months to become compliant with the school regulations.

For the entire publication of the amendments to the regulation, visit the Department of Health's website at <http://www.vaccinesforlife.com>

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2012 PA VFC Provider Handbook Have Arrived

The new 2012 PA VFC Provider Handbooks were mailed and should have arrived in your offices during the month of December 2011. At your earliest convenience, ensure that your VFC Coordinator retrieves the previous PA VFC Provider binder and replaces the handbook information with the new 2012 PA VFC Provider Handbook insert. It is the responsibility of all VFC Coordinators and designated back-up persons to familiarize themselves with the PA VFC Provider Handbook.

The PA VFC Handbook is an excellent training and reference resource for you and your staff and can be accessed by going to the PA VFC Web page at www.health.state.pa.us/vfchandbook.

If you did not receive your VFC Provider Handbook, have any questions or need assistance, please call the PA VFC toll free line at 888-646-6864.

Invasive Pneumococcal Disease (IPD) and PCV13 Coverage

During 2010 and 2011, CDC evaluated available data to assess the occurrence of PCV13-type IPD cases and PCV13 vaccination coverage among children aged ≤ 59 months. During May 1, 2010, to April 30, 2011, 63 vaccine-eligible children with IPD caused by a serotype that would have been prevented by PCV13 were identified within 12 study regions. Most of those children were aged 24 through 59 months and were vaccinated completely with PCV7 but had not received the recommended supplemental dose of PCV13. Immunization Information System (IIS) sentinel site data from March 2010 to June 2011 indicated that the proportion of PCV7-vaccinated children who had received the PCV13 supplemental dose was only 37%. Similarly, among children aged ≤ 59 months requiring additional primary series doses, PCV13 coverage was only 46%. Given the potential for missed PCV13 vaccination, health care providers should recommend PCV13 vaccination for all eligible children aged 14 through 59 months during all visits and continue to ensure receipt of the full PCV13 primary series for younger children. The complete article can be viewed at: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6043a2.htm>.

Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) Vaccine

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends routine vaccination of males aged 11 or 12 years with HPV4 administered as a 3-dose series (recommendation category: A, evidence type: 2§). The vaccination series can be started beginning at age 9 years. Vaccination with HPV4 is recommended for males aged 13 through 21 years who have not been vaccinated previously or who have not completed the 3-dose series. Males aged 22 through 26 years may be vaccinated. Recommendations for administration and precautions are unchanged from previous recommendations.

The greatest impact occurs when the vaccine is given at ages 11 or 12 years, when there is a better immune response compared with older ages. Ideally, patients should be vaccinated before onset of sexual activity, before they may be exposed to HPV. To read the CDC press brief, visit http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2011/t1025_hpv_12yroidvaccine.html.

CDC Childhood Immunization Champion Award

The CDC Childhood Immunization Champion Award is a new annual award that recognizes individuals who make a significant contribution toward improving public health through their work in childhood immunization. Each year, up to one *CDC Immunization Champion* from each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia will be honored. Awardees for the inaugural year will be announced during National Infant Immunization Week, April 21-28, 2012.

Please access the following Web link and nominate your immunization champion: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/events/niiw/champions/childhood.html>.

ACIP Tdap Update for Pregnant Women

ACIP recommends that women's health care personnel implement a Tdap vaccination program for pregnant women who previously have not received Tdap. Health care personnel should administer Tdap during pregnancy, preferably during the third or late second trimester (after 20 weeks' gestation). If not administered during pregnancy, Tdap should be administered immediately postpartum. This guidance for Tdap vaccination of pregnant women and others who have close contact with infants is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/wk/mm6041.pdf>.

What is Cervical Health Awareness Month?

The United States Congress designated January as Cervical Health Awareness Month. During January, health care providers are asked to highlight issues related to cervical cancer, Human Papilloma Virus (HPV), and the importance of early detection with their patients. Some of the issues you may wish to highlight to prevent cervical cancer include: 1) it is important get the HPV vaccine, 2) see your doctor regularly for a Pap test to find cervical precancerous cells, 3) follow-up with your doctor if results from Pap test are abnormal, 4) don't smoke, and 5) limit the number of sexual partners. Women ages 40-64, who live in Pennsylvania, are low income, and are uninsured or underinsured may be able to receive free screening for breast and cervical cancer through the Department of Health's Healthy Woman Program (HWP). To get more information on eligibility related to the HWP, please call toll-free at 800-215-7494.

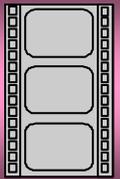


VFC Video Training

[VFC Provider Site Profile Enrollment Form](#)

[VFC Instructions for Order Form Video](#)

[VFC Temperature Log Video](#)



Vaccine Storage

1. Proper Temperatures

Freeze
MMR, MMRV, and Varicella

Aim for 0° F

5° F or below
(-15° C or below)

Don't let temps get too warm!

Refrigerate
all other vaccines

Aim for 40° F

Don't freeze liquid vaccines! 35° F - 46° F (2° C - 8° C) Don't let temps get too warm!

2. Proper Set Up

Stand-alone freezer

- ❌ No food in freezer!
- ❌ No vaccine in doors! Fill space with cold packs.
- ❌ No vaccine in drawers or on floor of refrigerator! Fill space with water bottles.

Refrigerator-only unit

- ❌ No vaccine in doors! Fill space with water bottles.
- ❌ No food in refrigerator!

- ✅ Place thermometers in the center of both the refrigerator and freezer. Post a temperature log on each door.
- ✅ Group vaccines by type. Clearly label the designated space for each vaccine.
- ✅ Keep vaccine spaced 2-3 inches away from walls and other boxes.
- ✅ Post "Do Not Unplug" warning signs on electrical outlets and circuit breakers. Plug in only one unit per outlet.

Note: Ensure thermometer or thermometer probe dangles freely and is placed in the center of each unit and does not come in contact with contents or refrigerator surface.



Happy New Year 2012



Help End Government Waste!

During calendar year 2011, the PA VFC program reported vaccine “lost” due to expiration, power outages, out-of-range temperatures, refrigeration failures and wasted vaccines in the amount of approximately \$2,700,844 worth of federally-funded vaccine. Eighty-one percent or \$2,183,770 of the total vaccine amount reported lost in 2011 was a result of vaccine expiring before it could be used.

The following are some helpful hints to avoid preventable vaccine loss as a result of out-of-range temperatures and expired vaccine:

- Recording refrigeration temperature logs (twice daily)
- Detecting expired vaccine dates
- Rotating vaccine stock
- Storing vaccine properly
- Using up all vaccine inventory in stock before switching to another product.

Request for Return Shipping Label

When your facility discovers expired and/or wasted vaccine, immediately remove vaccine from the refrigerated unit, mark the vaccine “Don’t use” and place into a shipping container. Next, request a UPS label by completing and faxing the “Vaccine Return Form” to 717 - 214-7223. The Vaccine Return Form can be found in your PA VFC Provider Handbook, Section 6 or at <http://www.health.state.pa.us/VFCHandbook>. Allow 7 to 10 business days to receive the UPS label. The PA VFC Program does not provide return shipping containers, but a UPS label will be sent to your facility from McKesson.

Returning non-viable VFC vaccine is very important for our accountability to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Immunization Program.

PA VFC Contact Information



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