

PA VFC Program



Spring 2012

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2012 Online Recertification Process

During 2012, provider sites will be transitioned from hardcopy paper submission to online enrollment. Currently, enrolled practices will simply complete and submit their recertification forms through an online enrollment screen. Recertification is a federal requirement of continued participation in the VFC Program. Log on instructions as well as provider log on ID and password will be forthcoming.

The process will only take a few minutes and for your convenience, we have pre-populated most fields with your practice's information. You will be prompted to review the information provided and update or revise it if necessary. Important! Although the process may only take a few minutes to complete, be prepared to provide the number of VFC eligible children you anticipate serving in the coming year. Information should be based upon children served from VFC in the preceding year. See "Annual Patient Population" section of Provider Site Profile/Enrollment form below.

Annual Patient Population (PASIIS participants with compatible PA VFC EMR application do not need to complete this chart. A listing of the compatible EMR programs is on the PA VFC website www.health.state.pa.us/yfchandbook.)

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Years of age	<1	1-6	7-18	>19**	
Total Number Enrolled in the Practice					
DO NOT COUNT A CHILD IN MORE THAN ONE CATEGORY LISTED BELOW.					
Number of Children Enrolled in Medical Assistance					
Number of Uninsured Children					
Number of American Indian/Alaskan Native Children					
*Number of Underinsured Children (children whose health					
insurance does not cover vaccines)					

*Underinsured children are only eligible through the PA VFC program if vaccinated at an FQHC or RHC. **Persons 19 and older are not VFC Eligible.

Your clinic's Chief Physician must electronically agree to the program's participation requirements by entering his/her medical license number. Make sure to print a copy for your records! Provider's not having Internet access will complete the Provider Site Profile/Enrollment form, located in Section 6-Forms of the Provider Handbook, and submit the form via fax or mail.

VFC Communications Depends on Your Emails

The PA VFC Program is asking that each practice provide the email address for the key clinic contacts to receive important PA VFC updates. The PA VFC Program's main method of delivering immunization communications to providers is via email. If there is a change in your practice's PA VFC contact person, please immediately contact the PA VFC Program with the new email address at 888-646-6864.

Temperature Log Submission Are Not Required

As of January 2012, providers no longer need to submit a copy of the monthly temperature log by the fifth business day of each month for each refrigeration unit that stores provided vaccines. Provider requirements remain in place to record refrigerator/freezer temperatures twice daily (a.m. and p.m.) on a PA VFC Program-supplied temperature log. Retain the temperature logs for three years. A blank form can be found in your PA VFC Provider Handbook (Section 6 - Forms) or at http://www.health.state.pa.us/VFCHandbook.

Providers will continue to ensure working thermometers are used inside both refrigerators and freezers. National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) certified thermometers, calibrated per manufacturer's recommendations, are required for vaccine storage. Documentation should include the time when temperatures were checked and initials of staff checking the temperatures. If vaccine temperatures are out of recommended ranges during temperature logging, take immediate action to correct the problem and document the action taken on the temperature log or attach an explanation of action taken. After responding to storage temperatures outside the manufacturer's recommended range, complete and submit (within five days of the incident) a "Vaccine Incident Report and Worksheet" and, if necessary, a "Vaccine Return Form" located in the PA VFC Provider Handbook (Section 6- Forms) or at http://www.health.state.pa.us/VFCHandbook.

2012 PA VFC Program Satisfaction Survey

Since 2011, the PA VFC Program has conducted an annual statewide survey of its enrolled facilities. In an effort to improve the quality of the PA VFC program, we are requesting that your medical facility complete the "2012 Pennsylvania Vaccines for Children (PA VFC) Program Satisfaction Survey."

Please have the VFC Coordinator or office staff most familiar with the PA VFC Program complete the online survey as soon as possible at http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/WEB22F7897W7EU/. The survey should take a few minutes to complete; any information you provide will be managed confidentially. Responses to the survey should be based on your VFC Program experiences during the 2011 calendar year. The validity of the results depends on obtaining a high response rate, so your participation is encouraged.

As a PA VFC Provider, your opinion is important to the continued success of the PA VFC Program. The objective of the survey is to assess provider program satisfaction of PA VFC Providers enrolled in the PA VFC Program. If you have any questions or concerns about completing the survey, you may contact me at (717) 787-5681 or wfleming@pa.gov.

Purchasing a Vaccine Refrigeration Unit?

Vaccine storage units are critically important. The protection of your patients depends on the protection of expensive vaccine inventory. Poor temperature control weakens and damages vaccine potency. When a vaccine refrigerator or freezer unit is repaired or replaced:

- 1. Notify your DOH QA Immunization nurse to check appliance and temperatures;
- 2. Monitor temperatures twice a day for a week with NIST Certified Thermometer(s); and
- 3. Wait for QA Immunization nurse approval to resume vaccine ordering.

UPS Return Shipping Label

When requesting a UPS return shipping label for expired and wasted vaccine, simply complete and fax the "Vaccine Return Form" to 717 214-7223, and a UPS return shipping label will be sent to your facility. Allow 7 to 10 business days to receive the UPS return shipping label from McKesson. Alert clerical staff that a UPS return shipping label is expected from McKesson and provide instructions to forward the envelope and contents to you. Below is an image of the McKesson envelope and UPS return shipping label. The Vaccine Return Form can be found in your PA VFC Provider Handbook, Section 6 or at http://www.health.state.pa.us/VFCHandbook.





2012-2013 Influenza Season

In preparation for the 2012-2013 influenza season, the PA VFC program will mail the 2012-2013 "Influenza Vaccine Order Form" to approved health care facilities for **pre-booking** influenza vaccine orders during the month of June. Influenza orders must be received by **July 31, 2012.** The 2012-2013 Influenza Vaccine Ordering Form will also be available on the Vaccines for Children web page.

The influenza vaccine will be distributed to State Health Centers, County-Municipal Health Departments, Federally Qualified Health Centers, Rural Health Clinics, private PA VFC providers and other Department approved public provider sites. Distribution of the influenza vaccine is expected to begin in September or October 2012. Influenza vaccine obtained through the Department may only be provided to those persons 6 months of age and older who have no access to vaccine from other sources and, because of age or underlying medical conditions, are at risk for complications of influenza.

2012 Immunization Schedule

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) annually publishes an immunization schedule for persons up to 18 years of age that summarizes recommendations for currently licensed vaccines for children aged 0 to 6 and 7 to 18 years old.

Recommended 2012 immunization schedules are available at:

http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/schedules/child-schedule.htm#printable.



VFC Video Training

VFC Provider Site Profile Enrollment Form VFC Instructions for Order Form Video VFC Temperature Log Video



PA VFC Contact Information



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