



PA VFC Program News



Fall 2010

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IT'S TIME TO RE-ENROLL FOR 2010-2011

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) requires that you update your Pennsylvania Vaccines for Children (PA VFC) provider site profile and enrollment information annually. The provider site profile/enrollment form will be mailed to currently enrolled VFC providers during the month of October. Once you receive it, please complete and return. Your annual updates establish a vaccine allowance for your practice and also help us to calculate vaccine needs for the 2011 PA VFC Program year.

While completing the annual patient population portion of the re-enrollment form, please supply accurate data for the number of children in your practice in each age cohort and each eligibility category. Include data for all patients in your practice, whether or not they are eligible to receive PA VFC vaccines.

Patient information must be based on data, not estimates. If you have been enrolled in the Pennsylvania State Immunization Information System (PA SIIS) for one year, you DO NOT have to complete the Annual Patient Population section of the enrollment form. Email accounts should be for the provider practice office; avoid personal email accounts.

Changes to physician practice staff information should be indicated in the Add or Delete section. In order to participate in the PA VFC Program and/or receive federally procured vaccine provided at no cost, a facility's physician-in-chief (or equivalent) must read and initial each of the provider requirements. Completion of this form is required, regardless if there have not been any changes in your practice.

If the PA VFC Program does not receive your completed forms by Friday, November 20, 2010, there may be a delay in processing your vaccine orders received after this date. A copy of the original enrollment form should be retained by the primary contact person.

If you require assistance with completing your annual enrollment form, contact the PA VFC Program at the toll-free telephone number: 1-888-646-6864. We will be happy to assist you.

Are "Dorm Style" Refrigerators Acceptable Storage Units for PA VFC Vaccines?

Dormitory style refrigerators **are never acceptable for storage** of PA VFC vaccines. Dormitory style refrigerators are not adequate for storage of vaccines because they do not maintain appropriate temperatures. Proper storage and handling of vaccine is important not only for the shelf life and effectiveness of a vaccine, but for the safety of the children receiving the vaccine as well. Vaccines must be properly stored in combination units, with separate (refrigerator/freezer) doors or stand alone units to ensure maximum potency and safety. Each unit must have a National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) certified calibrated thermometer in each compartment of the storage unit.

A dorm style refrigerator is a small combination refrigerator/freezer unit that is outfitted with one external door, an evaporator plate (cooling coil), which is usually located inside an ice-maker compartment (freezer) within the refrigerator, and is void of a temperature alarm device. Its temperature control sensor reacts to the temperature of the evaporator rather than the general air in the storage compartment. When the compressor is on, the evaporator cools to lower the temperature in the refrigerator, in most cases to below 0°C. Proper temperatures are 35°- 46° Fahrenheit (2°- 8° Celsius) for refrigerator, and 5° Fahrenheit (-15° Celsius) or colder for freezers. The problem with using a dorm style refrigerator is that vaccine is placed at a high risk of freezing.

The proper storage unit for PA VFC vaccines is a household style or commercial style combination refrigerator/freezer unit. The proper storage unit must have separate external doors, be able to maintain required vaccine year around and store the year's largest vaccine order.

For additional information access Section 7, PA VFC Provider Handbook, "**Checklist For Safe Vaccine Handling & Storage**" at www.health.state.pa.us/vfchandbook.

2010-2011 Seasonal Flu

The viruses used in making seasonal flu vaccines are chosen each year based on information collected over the previous year about which influenza viruses are spreading and what vaccine viruses would offer the best protection against circulating viruses. The recommended composition of the seasonal vaccine for the Northern Hemisphere, including the United States, is the same composition that was recommended for the Southern Hemisphere's 2010 influenza vaccines. After the World Health Organization (WHO) made its recommendations for the Northern Hemisphere, the US FDA Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee (VRBPAC) met in Bethesda, Maryland on February 22, 2010 and concurred with WHO's recommendation, so the U.S. seasonal vaccine for the 2010–2011 season will include:

an A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)–like virus,
an A/Perth/16/2009 (H3N2)–like virus, and a
B/Brisbane/60/2008–like virus.

This season, the H1N1 virus is included in the 2010-2011 seasonal influenza vaccine. For complete information on this topic, access the following link: http://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/qa/1011_vac_selection.htm.

Economic Order Quantity (EOQ)

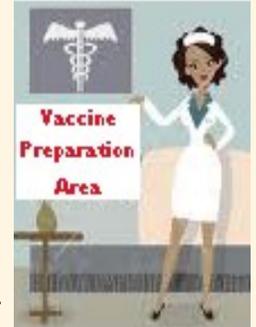
The PA VFC Provider Handbook instructions for completing the PA VFC Pediatric Vaccine Order & Accountability Form (Section 3) *Order Frequency* states that each Vaccine Order Form indicates the Economic Order Quantity (EOQ) order frequency (i.e., monthly, bimonthly and quarterly) assigned to each provider. EOQ "tiers" are assigned according to an algorithm which is roughly based upon annual volume of publicly-funded vaccines ordered and available storage capacity. All providers are strongly encouraged to order within their assigned EOQ tier, as indicated at the upper right section of the order form.

VFC Vaccine Coordinator

The Role of the Vaccine Coordinator

Vaccines are expensive and sensitive to temperature. Careful vaccine management is essential to protecting your vaccine supply.

Every PA VFC provider office must designate a Vaccine Coordinator and a back-up person to oversee publically funded vaccine supply and be responsible for all aspects of vaccine management. Both persons must be fully trained in routine and emergency procedures related to vaccine ordering, receiving, storage and handling, transferring/transporting vaccine, and inventory management. This information is found in (Section 4) *Vaccine Management and Accountability* of the PA VFC Provider Handbook.



The Backup Vaccine Coordinator is responsible when the Vaccine Coordinator is not available. In many PA VFC practices, the Vaccine Coordinator is a Medical Assistant, but in other practices, the Vaccine Coordinator is an LPN, RN, office manager or other staff person.

The responsibilities of a Vaccine Coordinator vary based upon specific office protocols and immunization volume. Below are a few of the responsibilities of the Vaccine Coordinator, which vary from practice to practice and may include training other (especially new) staff to perform some of the following responsibilities:

Responsibilities of the Vaccine Coordinator

Ordering Vaccines

- Perform a physical inventory of all vaccines.
- Complete the PA VFC vaccine order form in compliance with the Economic Order Quantity (EOQ) calendar.
- Submit vaccine order forms to the PA VFC office. Fax 717 441-3800 or email paimmunizations@state.pa.us.

Receiving Vaccines

- Be present when vaccine shipments are delivered to immediately process and refrigerate vaccine shipments according to established PA VFC protocol.
- Ensure that the vaccine cold chain has been maintained.

Storing Vaccines

- Allow no dormitory style refrigerators.
- Must have a National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) certified calibrated thermometer within each refrigeration freezer compartment.
- Rotate the vaccine inventory so that vaccines with shorter expiration dates are used first.
- Ensure that there are no expired vaccines in the refrigerator or freezer.
- Keep PA VFC vaccine separate from privately purchased vaccine.
- Ensure that routine maintenance, such as cleaning, is performed on vaccine refrigerator or freezer units.

Monitoring Vaccine Temperatures

- Record refrigerator and freezer temperatures on PA VFC Temperature logs twice daily (A.M. and P.M.).
- Take action in accordance with Section 5-10 of the PA VFC Handbook "Handling Vaccine Exposed to Out-of-Range Temperatures" if temperatures are outside acceptable ranges.
- Implement the vaccine emergency plan, if necessary.
- Submit vaccine temperature logs on the 5th business day of each month.
- Ensure that temperature logs are retained for three years.

For complete information please access www.health.state.pa.us/vfchandbook.

Find A Flu Shot

The PA Department of Health's web based "Flu Shot Locator" lets you know which Pennsylvania clinics are offering flu shots nearest you. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is now recommending that everyone age six months and over get a flu shot. The best place to start is to first consult with your Family Physician. The Flu Shot Locator can be accessed at the following link:

<http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt?open=514&objID=557935&mode=2>.

2011 PA VFC Provider Handbook Arrives

The new 2011 PA VFC Provider Handbook will soon arrive in your mailbox. The new handbook is scheduled to arrive December 2010 and is filled with useful information to help your medical practice manage its participation in the PA VFC program. The handbook is designed to inform providers about PA VFC policies, procedures, provider requirements, and to answer everyday provider questions and concerns. The PA VFC program values its ongoing partnership with its participating providers. We understand communication is essential to making the immunization partnership work. Throughout the year we will notify you of any revisions or updates to the handbook so that the updates can be added to your office copy. The handbook is available on the PA VFC's website at www.health.state.pa.us/vfchandbook.

Are You A VFC Provider?

If you are not a PA VFC provider; enrolling in the PA VFC program is easy!

For additional information or to enroll in the PA VFC program, visit our website at

<http://www.health.pa.us/vfc> or Call 1-888-646-6864 and:

1. Request a provider enrollment package
2. Complete and return the Provider Site Profile/Enrollment Forms
3. Participate in a "new provider" site visit

Providers located in Philadelphia County should contact the Philadelphia VFC Program at 215-685-6748.

Prevnar-13 Supplemental Dose

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has recommended the use of Prevnar 13 for healthy children aged two months through 59 months for the prevention of invasive pneumococcal disease caused by the 13 pneumococcal serotypes included in the vaccine.

The ACIP's recommendations include the routine use of Prevnar 13 for infants and toddlers, as well as a supplemental dose for children through 59 months of age who have completed the four dose immunization series with Prevnar 7 (Pneumococcal 7-valent Conjugate Vaccine [Diphtheria CRM197 Protein]). In addition, the ACIP recommended that children who have started their immunization series with Prevnar 7 should complete the series by switching to Prevnar 13 at any point in the schedule. For more complete information access the following link:

http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5909a2.htm?s_cid=mm5909a2_e.

VFC Holiday Shipping Schedule 2010

November 2010 Ordering and Shipping

- Last day to order vaccine will be November 15, 2010.
- Last day to receive vaccine will be November 23, 2010.
- Vaccine will not be shipped November 24 through November 29, 2010.
- Resume vaccine ordering November 30, 2010.

December 2010 Ordering and Shipping

- Last day to order vaccine will be December 10, 2010.
- Last day to receive vaccines will be December 22, 2010.
- Vaccine will not be shipped December 24 through December 27, 2010 and December 30 through January 2, 2011.
- Resume vaccine ordering January 3, 2011.

PA VFC Contact Information



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