

# PA VFC Program



## News

Fall 2012

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### Countdown to Online Vaccine Ordering

The Pennsylvania Vaccines for Children (PA VFC) Program is currently in the process of developing an Internet application located within the Pennsylvania Statewide Immunization Information System (PA-SIIS). The online ordering application is scheduled to be in place by February 2013. It will benefit PA VFC providers by reducing administrative burden and increasing vaccine order accuracy through the ability to place and track vaccine orders online. Additionally, providers will be able to update their PA VFC facility information whenever necessary and as required during annual re-enrollment.

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Submitting vaccine orders electronically will replace faxing and make vaccine ordering more convenient for providers. The online application will allow providers to access all PA VFC-related program applications in one place. All current PA VFC requirements for vaccine ordering, including reporting of inventories and vaccine usage, will remain in place with this new online system. Additional vaccine ordering reporting requirements will include:

- Reconciling vaccine inventory prior to ordering; and
- Recording lot numbers.

Enrollment in PA-SIIS is not mandatory for PA VFC providers to have access to PA VFC online ordering and enrollment.

## 2012-13 Influenza Vaccine Recommendations

The PA VFC Program will provide flu vaccine for VFC-eligible children aged 6 months through 18 years. Adults and older children are recommended to receive one dose of influenza vaccine each year, but children younger than 9 years of age should receive two doses for protection when it is their first time receiving an influenza vaccine. However, because of the antigenic novelty of the 2009 (H1N1) pandemic virus, which is anticipated to continue circulating during 2012–13, exposure history to this antigen must also be considered. Therefore, children who last received seasonal (trivalent) influenza vaccine prior to the 2010–11 season but received no vaccine containing 2009 (H1N1) antigen (either seasonal vaccine since July 2010 or monovalent 2009 [H1N1] vaccine) will not have received this antigen. These children are recommended to receive two doses this season, even if two doses of seasonal influenza vaccine were received before the 2010–11 season.

To summarize the recommendation regarding history of 2009 H1N1 antigen, children aged 6 months through 8 years need only one dose of vaccine in 2012–13 if they have received any of the following:

- Two or more doses of seasonal influenza vaccine since July 1, 2010; or
- Two or more doses of seasonal influenza vaccine before July 1, 2010, and one or more doses of monovalent 2009 (H1N1) vaccine; or
- One or more doses of seasonal influenza vaccine before July 1, 2010, and one or more doses of seasonal influenza vaccine since July 1, 2010.

Children for whom one of these conditions is not met require two doses in 2012–13.

Please refer to the package inserts for information on vaccine usage and contraindications for each type of flu vaccine. Your effort to vaccinate patients saves lives. Please contact the Division of Immunizations at 888-646-6864 if you have questions about this or related items.

## VFC Vaccine Ordering Privileges

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) requires that you update your PA VFC provider site profile and enrollment information annually. The provider site profile/enrollment form was due Monday, Oct. 1, 2012. Until this form is received, we will be unable to process your vaccine orders. For your convenience, an Excel formatted version of the provider site profile and enrollment form can be downloaded at <http://www.health.state.pa.us/vfc>, under the “What’s New” tab.

If you require assistance with completing your annual update, contact the PA VFC Program at 888-646-6864. We are happy to assist you with any questions you may have.

**Pennsylvania Department of Health  
Vaccines for Children Program Provider Site Profile/Enrollment**

Back cover of this form must be completed for each site to be eligible to be included in the Vaccines for Children Program. A form must be completed for each site to be eligible to be included in the program. This form must be completed for each site to be included in the program. The form must be completed for each site to be included in the program. The form must be completed for each site to be included in the program.

This spreadsheet will be populated with data from the VFC program. It is not to be used for data entry. It is to be used for data entry. It is to be used for data entry.

If the type of facility is not appropriate, please describe it in the comments field below the form.

Site Name:  Fax Number:

Provider Name:

Address:

City:  State:  Zip:

Practice Address (if different):

City:  State:  Zip:

Phone:

Form of facility (select one):

Report Patient Population: All patients, regardless of whether you are currently providing VFC, and eligible to be included in the program.

Population	0-4	5-11	12-17	18+
Total Number of Patients in the Practice				
Number of Children Enrolled in the Vaccines for Children Program				
Number of Children Enrolled in the Vaccines for Children Program (by age group)				
Number of Children Enrolled in the Vaccines for Children Program (by gender)				
Number of Children Enrolled in the Vaccines for Children Program (by race/ethnicity)				
Number of Children Enrolled in the Vaccines for Children Program (by insurance type)				

FOR MORE INFORMATION REGARDING VFC, VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [www.health.state.pa.us/vfc](http://www.health.state.pa.us/vfc)

Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

The following providers will be obtaining VFC orders:

Provider Name (Print Name)	Provider Number	Registration Date	PHN ID# (if applicable)	DOB

Please do not change any data in this table.

**To remove your practice from VFC vaccine ordering suspension, please submit this annual required form immediately.**

## Patient Referrals to Public Health Clinics

The Department of Health (DOH), Division of Immunizations, supplies vaccines for eligible persons to public health care providers including DOH State Health Centers, County and Municipal Health Departments (CMHD), Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC), Rural Health Clinics (RHC), and other DOH approved public provider sites. DOH supplied vaccines must be administered according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations.

Beginning Oct. 1, 2012, Department of Health clinics will no longer routinely vaccinate fully-insured children or adolescent individuals. Vaccines for Children (VFC) policy and eligibility criteria are unchanged. The department will only serve children and adolescents that are VFC eligible or children without insurance. In order to ensure that vaccines remain available for those who truly have no other option, it is important that all fully insured children are vaccinated with vaccines purchased through their insurance. We want to assure you that the VFC program will continue to serve eligible children and adolescents.

The CDC defines fully-insured as:

Anyone with insurance that covers the cost of vaccine, even if the insurance includes a high deductible or co-pay, or if a claim for the cost of the vaccine and its administration would be denied for payment by the insurance carrier because the plan's deductible had not been met.

Private physicians who have referred patients to public health clinics for routine vaccination will need to consider how to meet the preventive care needs of their fully insured patients. Similarly, insurance providers will need to ensure adequate in-network providers to vaccinate all of the individuals covered under their plans. Please contact the Division of Immunizations at 888-646-6864 if you have questions.

## Proper Vaccine Storage Equipment

### Effective January 2013

Freezers and Refrigerators:

PA VFC providers must use freezers or refrigerators which have separate exterior doors and separate thermostat controls for VFC vaccine storage, or they will be suspended from placing vaccine orders. CDC strongly recommends stand-alone freezers and refrigerators without freezers; however, PA VFC will accept any freezer or refrigerator which has separate exterior doors and separate thermostat controls.

Certified Thermometer Calibration:

The best calibration is annual; however, PA VFC will accept the manufacturer's suggestion unless the period since the last calibration exceeds two years.

## Expired PA VFC Inventory

Please check the expiration date of PA VFC inventory. If you have vaccine due to expire and believe the vaccine will expire before it can be used, please contact your PA VFC Immunization Nurse (locations in PA VFC Provider Handbook, Section 5) or at <http://www.health.state.pa.us/VFCHandbook> or call 1-888-646-6864. A number of suggestions for best practices for vaccine management and assuring minimal vaccine wastage are in your PA VFC Provider Handbook, Section 4.

Vaccines must be maintained properly to protect viability. Proper storage and handling procedures and vaccine management will help minimize vaccine loss and waste.

## Clinical Vaccinology Course

CDC and seven other national organizations are collaborating with the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID), Emory University School of Medicine and the Emory Vaccine Center to sponsor a Clinical Vaccinology Course Nov. 2 - 4, 2012, at the Hyatt Regency Miami in Miami, Florida. Through lectures and interactive case presentations, the course will focus on new developments and concerns related to the use of vaccines in pediatric, adolescent and adult populations. Leading infectious disease experts, including pediatricians, internists and family physicians, will present the latest information on newly available vaccines and vaccines in the pipeline.

This course is designed specifically for physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, pharmacists, vaccine program administrators and other healthcare professionals involved with or interested in the clinical use of vaccines. The course is also ideal for healthcare professionals such as federal, state and local public health officials involved in the prevention and control of infectious diseases. Course participants should have a knowledge of, or interest in, vaccines and vaccine-preventable diseases.

Continuing education credits will be offered. Information regarding the program, registration, and hotel accommodations is available at <http://www.nfid.org> or by email ([idcourse@nfid.org](mailto:idcourse@nfid.org)), fax (301-907-0878), telephone (301-656-0003, ext. 19) or mail (NFID, 4733 Bethesda Ave., Suite 750, Bethesda, MD 20814-5228).

## 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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Toll Free Line 888-646-6864  
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