SECTION 8 – VACCINE DISTRIBUTION TIMELINES/SEASONAL FLU ORDERS/ CORRESPONDENCE/SCHEDULES/VIS

Vaccine Distribution Timelines

It is important to keep in mind that CDC's centralized distribution process involves a number of steps that are quite different from the steps that precede the delivery of vaccine ordered privately:

- The steps for centralized distribution include shipment to McKesson from the manufacturer (1-2 days).
- Receipt of doses at the distribution center (1 day).
- Update of CDC's allocation functionality (1-2 days).
- Placement of orders by VFC staff (timing varies usually 24 – 48 hours after receipt of order).
- Shipment of doses to provider (3-4 days).
- Varicella and MMRV are directly shipped from Merck and may take as much as 30 days to arrive.

Approximately a 9 to 10 Day Process for VFC Orders

In contrast, vaccine ordered from the private sector can either be ordered directly from a manufacturer or through a distributor, depending on the product.

- If ordered directly from the manufacturer, vaccine is shipped shortly after it is released (1 day).
- If ordered through a distributor, the vaccine is received from the manufacturer (1 day) and then repackaged and shipped to fill orders (2-3 days).

Approximately a 1 to 3 Day Process for Private Orders

Thus, even if a manufacturer ships doses to a private provider and to one of the CDC distribution centers on the same day, it is not possible for the provider to receive his private and VFC doses in the same day.

The VFC distribution system is set up much differently than the private distribution system, with multiple steps and state program involvement in order to ensure the equity of distribution across product types and jurisdictions.

Preparing for the Influenza Season

The influenza vaccine ordered by the DOH is for distribution to State Health Centers, County-Municipal Health Departments, Federally Qualified Health Centers, Rural Health Clinics, private VFC providers and other Department approved public provider sites.

Provider Timelines

June/July:
The PA VFC program will mail the influenza information, including the Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Order form, annually in June. Providers submit your influenza order requests on the Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Order Form. Please consider your previous year's "doses administered" when completing this request. Do not include the influenza order request with your regular vaccine order. The updated Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Order form is available on the Department's website at www.health.state.pa.us/vfchandbook . If you do not have access to the Department's website, contact the VFC Program at 1-888-646-6864. Completed order forms for influenza vaccine may be emailed to paimmunizations@pa.gov or faxed to (717) 441-3777.

August/September:
Private influenza vaccine delivered to providers.

September/October:
Public VFC influenza vaccine delivered to providers. Orders are filled based on orders first submitted in June/July, providing the VFC program has the vaccine presentation available.

August/November:
During influenza vaccine season the PA VFC program receives vaccine based on manufacturer availability. All updates regarding influenza vaccine orders are posted on the Department of Health's website.

Influenza vaccine obtained through the department may only be provided to those persons six 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. As with all VFC vaccines, availability of vaccine is not guaranteed, although VFC staff will make every effort to fill order requests.

The Influenza Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) must be offered to each person receiving the influenza vaccine and is located on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website at www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis. The most recent Influenza VIS is usually posted on this website by July.

Vaccines for Children Correspondence

Periodically, PA VFC providers will receive updates from the Department of Health (DoH). Provider updates are emailed to provider sites. These may be notices of changes to VFC policy, notices of vaccine shortages, new vaccine recommendations, new vaccines available through the program or new vaccine reporting policies and procedures.

As needed, the toll-free line (1-888-646-6864) outgoing messages are updated. Check the line for the newest PA VFC program information.

All updates and changes will be placed on the Department of Health's website at http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/immunizations, The PA VFC program is listed on the left.

Providers should review updates and recommendations with appropriate staff. If your office does not have access to the internet, please contact the PA VFC program and we will see that you receive hard copies of updated information.

Immunization Schedules

The 2013 recommended immunization schedules for children and adolescents (birth through 18 years) and adults (19 years old and older) are available online at http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/schedules/child-schedule.htm

Vaccine Information Statements (VIS)

By Federal law, all vaccine providers must give patients, or their parents or legal representatives, the appropriate Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) whenever a vaccination is given. The Vaccine Information Statements may change during the year. To assure you have the most up to date copy check the CDC website at http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/default.htm

Multiple Vaccines	11/16/12
Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis (DTaP)	5/17/07
Haemophilus Influenzae Type b (Hib)	12/16/98
Hepatitis A	10/25/11
Hepatitis B	2/02/12
Live, Intranasal Influenza	7/02/12
Inactivated Influenza	7/02/12
Gardasil	2/22/12
Cervarix	2/22/12
Measles/Mumps/Rubella	4/20/12
Measles/Mumps/Rubella and Varicella	5/21/10
Meningococcal	10/14/11
Pneumococcal Conjugate (PCV 13)	2/27/13
Pneumococcal Polysaccharide	10/6/09
Polio	11/08/11
Rotavirus	12/6/10
Shingles (Herpes Zoster)	10/6/09
Tetanus/Diphtheria (Td)	1/24/12
Tetanus/Diphtheria/Pertussis (Tdap)	1/24/12
Varicella (Chickenpox)	3/13/08