

# Immunization Guide for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Personnel in Virginia

# Historical Perspective

In the past, vaccine administration has not been considered part of the routine scope of practice of EMS providers in the Commonwealth

- EMS providers have generally been held to function within a scope of practice that enables them to provide immediate care in emergencies, not elective or preventive care

# Historical Perspective

EMS providers could administer vaccine only in the circumstance of an emergency declared by the Governor and following specific authorization and direction provided by the Commissioner of Health

# Current Legal Basis

During the 2010 General Assembly, House Bill 173 (Pogge) and Senate Bill 328 (Stuart) were combined resulting in legislation authorizing emergency medical technicians (EMTs) certified at the intermediate and paramedic levels that are operating under the direction of their Operational Medical Director (OMD) to administer vaccines to any person in accordance with established protocols of the Board of Health.

# EMS System Definitions

Levels of EMS Certification:

First Responder

EMT Basic

EMT Advanced

EMT Intermediate

EMT Paramedic (medications: Atropine, Lidocaine, Glucagon, etc.)

# EMS System Definitions

Operational medical director" or "OMD" means an EMS physician, currently licensed to practice medicine or osteopathic medicine in the Commonwealth, who is formally recognized and responsible for providing medical direction, oversight and quality improvement to an EMS agency.

OEMS certifies personnel, but the OMD delegates his or her authority to perform patient care procedures and techniques.

# Monitoring by VDH, Office of EMS

The Office of EMS has modified the EMS agency inspection form and process to capture the following information:

Program administration, reporting, record-keeping, training program, etc.

Authorized Prescriber and Administrator

Capture the Virginia Immunization Information System (VIIS) number

# Developing an EMS Vaccination Program

Although the recent H1N1 epidemic was the catalyst for the amendments made in the code, the language of the code is not specific to influenza vaccine

Thus EMS providers could be authorized by their medical director to administer a broad range of vaccines

# OMD Responsibilities

The OMD serves as the “prescriber” (who is authorized to issue a prescription) identified in the *Code of Virginia*, and as the supervising physician for the EMS providers administering vaccines.

The OMD supervising a vaccination program must hold current endorsement as an EMS physician in Virginia and be affiliated with the EMS agency developing the vaccination program

The OMD is ultimately responsible for the supervision of the vaccination program

The OMD Provides authorization for purchase of vaccine and other necessary supplies for vaccine administration

# OMD Responsibilities

Ensures appropriate physical management and handling of vaccine

Ensures that the vaccine program is registered with VIIS

The OMD/Agency will keep a written record of those EMS providers approved to administer vaccine

# OMD Responsibilities

The OMD develops protocols for selection, approval and training of vaccinators

- provision of specific vaccine information/education and informed consent to recipients of vaccine,
- specific procedures for administration of vaccine and management of any vaccination related complications,
- development and approval of appropriate record keeping, reporting of vaccination information and any adverse events or complications,
- and implementation of an ongoing quality management program for the vaccination program.

# Intermediate and Paramedic Responsibilities

EMS providers participating in a vaccination program must:

Hold a valid, unrestricted Virginia certification as an Intermediate or Paramedic

Must be affiliated with the Virginia EMS agency developing the vaccination program

Must be individually approved by their agency OMD as a vaccinator

Must follow protocols approved by their OMD for vaccine administration

# Intermediate and Paramedic Responsibilities

Proper vaccine storage

Benefit/risk communication

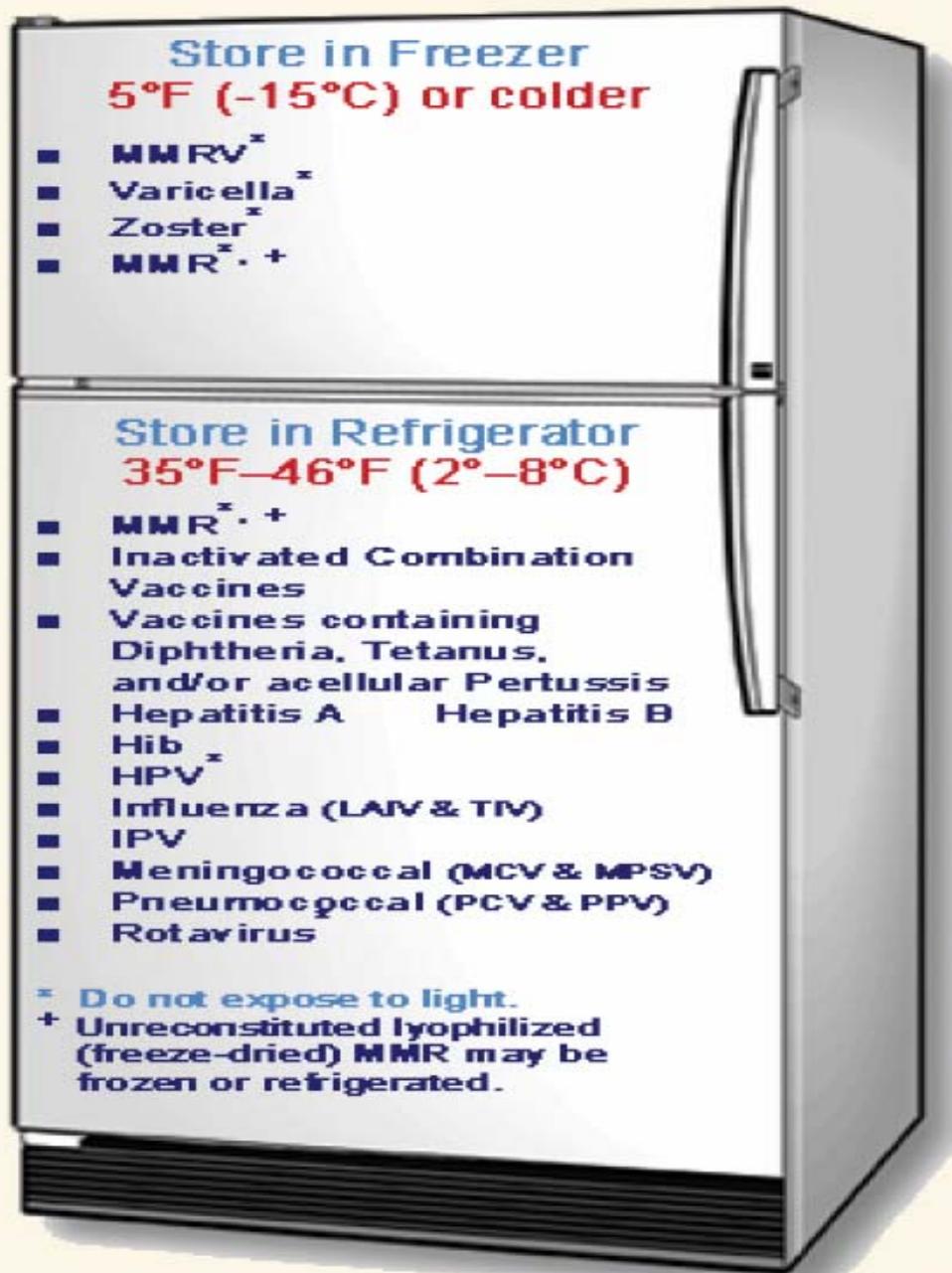
Proper vaccine administration

Appropriate management of side effects

# Vaccine Storage

- Maintain required temperature range throughout the year
- Separate doors for refrigerator and freezer
- Large enough to hold year's largest vaccine inventory
- Dedicated to biologics (no food or beverages!)
- Backup equipment





## Temperature Log for Vaccines (Fahrenheit)

Month/Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Days 1–15

**Completing this temperature log:** Check the temperatures in both the freezer and the refrigerator compartments of your vaccine storage units at least twice each working day. Place an "X" in the box that corresponds with the temperature and record the ambient (room) temperature, the time of the temperature readings, and your initials. Once the month has ended, save each month's completed form for 3 years, unless state or local jurisdictions require a longer time period.

**If the recorded temperature is in the shaded zone:** This represents an unacceptable temperature range. Follow these steps: 1. **Store the vaccine** under proper conditions as quickly as possible. 2. **Call the vaccine manufacturer(s)** to determine whether the potency of the vaccine(s) has been affected. 3. **Call the immunization program** at your local health department for further assistance: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_. 4. **Document the action taken** on the reverse side of this log.

Day of Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
Staff Initials																
Room Temp.																
Exact Time																
°F Temp	am	pm														
≥49°																
48°																
47°																
46°																
45°																
44°																
43°																
42°																
41°																
40°																
39°																
38°																
37°																
36°																
35°																
34°																
33°																
≤32°																
≥8°																
7°																
6°																
5°																
4°																
≤3°																

Adapted by the Immunization Action Coalition courtesy of the Michigan Department of Community Health and the California Department of Health Services.

Technical content reviewed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Jan. 2007.

www.immunize.org/catg.d/p3039.pdf • Item #P3039 (1/07)

Distributed by the Immunization Action Coalition • (651) 647-9009 • www.immunize.org • www.vaccineinformation.org • admin@immunize.org

# Benefit/Risk Communication

- Provide opportunities for questions before vaccinating
- Vaccine Information Statements (VISs)
  - Must be provided before each dose
  - All providers in all situations!
  - Available in multiple languages

# Federal requirements

- Give VIS before each dose
- Record:
  - Date VIS provided
  - VIS edition date
  - Manufacturer, lot no, date of administration
  - Name, address, title of person administering
- Document any adverse event
- Report to Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS)

# Federal requirements

For additional information about VAERS and the requirements and mechanisms for reporting adverse vaccine reactions, visit the CDC website at

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/vaers>

# Vaccine Administration

- Proper route/site
- Proper dose/needle size
- Observe timing/spacing requirements
- Screen for contraindications & precautions

# Contraindication

- A condition in a recipient that increases the chance of a serious adverse reaction

# Precaution

- A condition in a recipient that might:
- Increase the chance or severity of an adverse reaction, or
- Compromise the ability of the vaccine to produce immunity

# Manage Side Effects\*

- Syncope
- Anaphylaxis
- Others

\*Report reactions to VAERS

# Virginia Immunization Information System (VIIS)



# Topics Covered

- What is the Virginia Immunization Information System (VIIS)?
- Benefits
- How to register for VIIS
- Resources

# What is VIIS?

- VIIS is a secure web-based birth to death immunization system that consolidates immunizations from multiple providers
- VIIS is available at no cost and to any health care professional that works with immunizations
- Purpose is to improve ensure the provision of comprehensive immunization services at each patient visit.

# VIIS Benefits

- Validates immunization history and forecasts recommendations from the ACIP/AAP harmonized schedule
- Generates Official Immunization Record for patients
- Integrated inventory management system
- Customer Support and Training
  - Multiple training forums
  - Assigned VIIS consultant to each interested user

# VIIS Enrollment

The following must be completed in order to access VIIS:

- REGISTRATION FORMS
- TRAINING

# VIIS Training

VIIS offers multiple methods to complete training, such as:

- Hands-On Training:
  - A VIIS consultant will come out and provide you in person training at a time and location convenient to you
- Webinar Training
- Online Training

# Review

EMS providers may only administer vaccine under a specific protocol approved by their OMD

Providers must be appropriately certified and affiliated

OMD's, as the prescriber, must ensure that the vaccine is appropriately stored, that vaccinators are appropriately trained, and that vaccine recipients are screened prior to vaccine administration, and that they receive appropriate, vaccine specific information and documentation of informed consent prior to vaccination

EMS vaccination programs must be registered with and follow record keeping guidelines of the Virginia Immunization Information System (VIIS)

# Summary of Resources

## Virginia code sections:

- § 32.1-46.02. Administration of influenza vaccine to minors.
- § 54.1-3408. Professional use by practitioners.

## General vaccination information:

- CDC (<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/default.htm>)
- VDH  
(<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/epidemiology/immunization/providers.htm>)

## Model vaccination protocols for pharmacists:

- <http://www.virginiapharmacists.org/associations/7940/files/updated%202006%20Immunization%20Protocol.doc>

# Summary of Resources

## CDC Vaccine Information Statements (VISs)

- <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/default.htm>

## Virginia Immunization Information System (VIIS)

Go to VDH website for the forms and training links at [www.vdh.virginia.gov/viis](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/viis) or call 804-864-8055 and ask for a VIIS Consultant, who can enroll you in VIIS.

## Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS)

- <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/vaers/>