

CDC Storage and Handling Toolkit

The updated Storage and Handling toolkit, posted in November 2012, is a comprehensive resource for providers on vaccine storage

and handling recommendations, and best practice strategies. It can be found at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/storage/default.htm>

New Policy on Dormitory-Style Refrigerators

CDC does not recommend use of dormitory or bar-style refrigerator/freezers for ANY vaccine storage. The use of these specific refrigerator/freezers is not allowed at any time for Vaccines for Children (VFC) program providers. A dormitory-style refrigerator is defined as a small combination freezer/refrigerator unit that is outfitted with one exterior door and an evaporator plate (cooling coil), which is usually located inside an icemaker compartment (freezer) within the refrigerator. In the past dormitory-style refrigerators were acceptable for temporary storage. This is no longer the case. Please see VVFC policy posted at: <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/epidemiology/Immunization/VFC/index.htm>

Updated Forms

Due to recent changes affecting public providers and available vaccines, please make sure you have the most up-to-date order and accountability forms. Check for updated forms and guidance at <http://www.vdh.state.va.us/epidemiology/Immunization/VFC/vfcForms.htm>

New VFC Requirements for 2013

During 2013, and annually thereafter, all site visits will have increased emphasis on proper storage and handling practices, proper eligibility screening, on ensuring that VFC providers monitor vaccine expiration dates, and identify/remove expired vaccines. VVFC must confirm through signature that certain activities aimed at ensuring program oversight, provider compliance and highlighted vaccine management requirements have been completed. All VFC Provider Site Visit Questionnaires and site visit results must be reviewed by the VVFC coordinator and/or immunization program manager for all completed site visits. Forms must be dated and signed following review. Also, unannounced storage and handling office visits to assess and educate providers on proper storage and handling requirements must be performed during the year. The details on how these requirements will be met will be forthcoming.

Multi-Vaccine VIS

CDC has released an updated interim multi-vaccine VIS. Among other things, it adds intussusceptions as a rare adverse event for rotavirus vaccine. This VIS may be used as an optional substitute for any or all of the routine birth-6 month vaccine VISs (DTaP, IPV, Hib, PCV, Hepatitis B and Rotavirus). The older version may be used until supplies are exhausted; however, this version should be supplemented either verbally or with written materials to make sure parents are aware of the intussusception issue. An alternative is to give the rotavirus VIS separately.

Provisional ACIP Recommendations

ACIP provisional recommendations for prevention of Measles, Rubella, Congenital Rubella Syndrome (CRS), and Mumps were approved in October 2012 by ACIP. ACIP provisional updated recommendations on the use of Tdap for pregnant women were

also approved in October 2012 by ACIP. The recommendations can be found at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/provisional/default.htm>

Holiday Shipping

Vaccine shipments from McKesson will be HELD from December 24-January 2. The VVFC Order Center will not enter direct-ship orders to avoid deliveries from Merck during this same time period; however a few direct-shipments might arrive. Providers should indicate any changes to routine hours on the order form and should order vaccine mindful of their Holiday closures.

Flu Update

Contact Susan Kocen if you need VFC flu vaccine. All formulations are available. Short-dated FluMist can be exchanged through MedImmune's replacement program until January 31, 2013.

Information on this program is located at:

<http://www.vdh.state.va.us/epidemiology/Immunization/VFC/documents/2012CDCInstructionsReplacementProgram.pdf>

Gold Star Awards

Exceptional Immunization Rates

Norfolk Pediatrics, Norfolk

Outstanding VVFC Compliance

Blue Ridge Pediatric Associates, Winchester
Capital Area Pediatrics, Herndon
Children's Choice of the New River Valley, Dublin
Children's Health, Fredericksburg
Crestwood Pediatric Associates, Manassas
Crestwood Pediatric Associates South, Gainesville
Norfolk Pediatrics, Norfolk
Olde Towne Medical Center, Williamsburg
Pediatric Associates of Alexandria, Alexandria
PICH-Victoria Boulevard Physicians, Hampton
Practice of Dr. Varandani & Associates, Pennington Gap
Roanoke Valley Juvenile Detention Center, Roanoke

Process Improvement

VVFC provided an inservice with all nurses at Carilion Family Medicine in Blacksburg to discuss storage and handling of vaccines. Since then, the practice has done an excellent job in organizing storage and handling documentation. Temperature logs undergo secondary review each month to ensure all temps are in range and appropriate action has been taken and documented when necessary. An immunization binder has been created for each pod to facilitate documentation and meet compliance guidelines.

Immunization Champion

Christiansburg Family Practice has made several improvements to ensure vaccine viability over the last year. They have incorporated the use of a binder which includes all protocols, storage and handling information, and the VFC toolkit. They have purchased a cooler and extra thermometers to be ready to transport vaccine as part of their emergency preparedness. The emergency protocol and instructions are posted on the vaccine storage units. All relevant staff have been trained on vaccine storage and handling, the emergency response plan, and supplies are well organized for implementation, when necessary.

