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March/April 2015

Temperature Excursions

For any temperature excursion you must quarantine (bag) and label the vaccine, and call the vaccine

manufacturers to determine vaccine viability. Store the vaccine under correct temperature storage conditions until vaccine viability is determined. Do not assume that the outcome for one excursion can be applied to other excursions. The vaccine manufacturer will need to know the current storage unit temperature along with the minimum and maximum temperatures since the last reading, and the room temperature.

Back-up Thermometers

Purchase at least one backup thermometer with a current certificate of calibration and with a different calibration retesting date than the primary thermometer. Some thermometers are appropriate for both refrigerators and freezers. Make sure the certificate complies with CDC requirements found here:

<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/epidemiology/immunization/VFC/documents/SnH/Temperature%20Monitoring%20and%20Calibration%20Checklist.pdf>

Temperature Monitoring

DO NOT ignore out of range temperatures/alarms. Follow the guidance in CDC's storage and handling toolkit. Troubleshooting begins on page 55.

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

Did You Know

When vaccines must be used prior to the expiration date on the label, this is referred to as the "beyond use date" or "BUD" noted in the package insert. For reconstituted vaccines, this may be a date and/or time after which the vaccine cannot be used. The "BUD" (date and/or time) should be noted on the label along with the initials of the person changing the date/time. Package inserts can be found here: <http://www.immunize.org/packageinserts/>

Unannounced Site Visits

CDC began requiring unannounced site visits in 2013. Since then, VVFC field staff have been performing the unannounced storage and handling office visits to comply with the CDC requirement. Please be patient with your assigned consultant as we work to meet this requirement.

Flu Vaccine for 2014-15

Additional doses of flu vaccine are available and can be requested by contacting the Order Center. Continue vaccination throughout flu season. MedImmune's replacement program ended 1/31/15, so providers must return expired FluMist to McKesson for excise tax credit.

Influenza pre-book for next flu season is due back by 3/27/15.

New Vaccine Ordering Recommendation

- CDC recommends that providers place orders when they have a four-week supply of vaccine available, to ensure there is enough vaccine in stock to allow for any potential delays.
- CDC recommends smaller, more frequent orders rather than large orders to minimize the amount of vaccine loss if an incident occurs during shipment or in the vaccine storage unit.

Gold Star Awards (Dec/Jan)

Exceptional Immunization Rates

Pediatric Center, Glen Allen
Pediatric Center, Henrico
Pediatric Center, Richmond
Tidewater Children's Associates, Chesapeake
Southside Pediatrics, Farmville

Outstanding VVFC Compliance

Centra Medical Group-Village North, Bedford
Healthworks for Northern Virginia, Herndon
Herndon Medical Care, Herndon
Hillendale Medical Care, Woodbridge
Pediatric Associates of Winchester, Winchester
Piedmont Pediatrics, Crozet
Piedmont Pediatrics, Charlottesville
Tidewater Children's Associates, Chesapeake

Process Improvement - Bayside Pediatrics

Bayside Pediatrics, Virginia Beach has purchased new storage units. The site now has stand alone refrigerators and a stand alone freezer, using data loggers to continuously monitor temperatures. Dr. Venkatesan has made training mandatory for all staff every January. They have a power outage plan, management plan, proof of training and registration completed and in a binder.

Immunization Champion - Children's Health

Dr. Lynn Cao with Children's Health, P.C. in Fredericksburg, Virginia is committed to providing comprehensive care for patients ranging from newborns to adolescents. She takes time to discuss vaccines with each patient and their parents to educate them regarding the importance of receiving all immunizations. Children's Health had a 100% immunization coverage rate for the 4:3:1:3:3:1:4 series and their adolescent coverage rates exceeded state and national averages compared to National Immunization Survey data. Their excellent rates can be attributed to Dr. Cao and her staff's dedication to checking immunization records at each visit and creating alerts for missing immunizations in their EMR. See entire story at this link:

<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/epidemiology/immunization/vfc/champion.htm>

