

# Immunize NY!

## Bureau of Immunization

### Welcome to *Immunize NY!*

### Vaccines for Children Edition

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#### Frequently Used Abbreviations

- ✓ **ACIP:** Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices
- ✓ **CDC:** U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- ✓ **IAC:** Immunization Action Coalition
- ✓ **NDC:** National Drug Code
- ✓ **NYS:** New York State
- ✓ **NYSDOH:** New York State Department of Health
- ✓ **NYSIIS:** New York State Immunization Information System
- ✓ **VFC:** Vaccines for Children
- ✓ **VIS:** Vaccine Information Statement

## Vaccine Program Updates

### New Inventory Requirements to Lead to On-line Ordering Convenience

The NYSDOH Bureau of Immunization's Vaccine Program is in the process of implementing a new vaccine inventory system, which is the first step in making it possible for providers to place on-line vaccine orders.

The new inventory program that is part of the Vaccine Tracking System (VTrckS), was developed by CDC as part of its requirement to increase health care provider accountability for publicly purchased vaccine.

Beginning in January 2013, inventory reports will:

- include the NDC number for each vaccine, in addition to lot number and number of doses.
- be submitted at the same time as orders are placed.
- be reviewed by NYSDOH Vaccines for Children staff prior to placing orders.

VFC staff will contact health care providers and orders may be modified if the number of doses ordered seems excessive compared to the inventory submitted, or if the doses requested vary significantly from previous *Monthly Doses Administered Reports*.

Order forms and inventory reports can be submitted via:

- Fax: 518-474-4222 or 518-449-6912
- Email: [nyvfc@health.state.ny.us](mailto:nyvfc@health.state.ny.us).

To streamline the changes in the inventory process, the Vaccine Program has developed one form that is for both inventory and ordering, and includes the required NDC codes. All VFC providers, including NYSIIS users, are required to use the *Inventory Report and Order Sheet*. The new form is available on the NYSDOH VFC website: [www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/vaccines\\_for\\_children.htm](http://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/vaccines_for_children.htm).

## Monthly Doses Administered Report

A *Monthly Doses Administered Report* continues to be required of all VFC health care providers prior to ordering vaccine. All providers reporting immunizations to NYSIIS regularly and are up-to-date on entering vaccination records, are **not** required to submit a hard copy of the *Monthly Doses Administered Report* to VFC monthly. NYSIIS generates a report, known as the *VFC Report*, that will be viewed by VFC staff.

For providers that use NYSIIS to report doses administered:

- It is strongly recommended that all providers review their organization's *VFC Report* in NYSIIS to ensure that the actual VFC doses administered correspond accurately to what is displayed in the report.
- Remember VFC eligibility data is a required element of the *Monthly Doses Administered Report* for all VFC providers. Reviewing the *VFC Report* in NYSIIS is particularly important for providers who upload data to NYSIIS from an Electronic Medical Record (EMR) and/or billing system to ensure their uploaded file contains the VFC eligibility.

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## 2012-2013 Influenza Season

Influenza can occur at any time, but most cases occur between October and May. The best time to get vaccinated is **as soon as the vaccine is available**. Patients can get an influenza shot or the influenza nasal spray vaccine through the fall, winter or spring. Influenza season usually peaks in February, but continues through May.

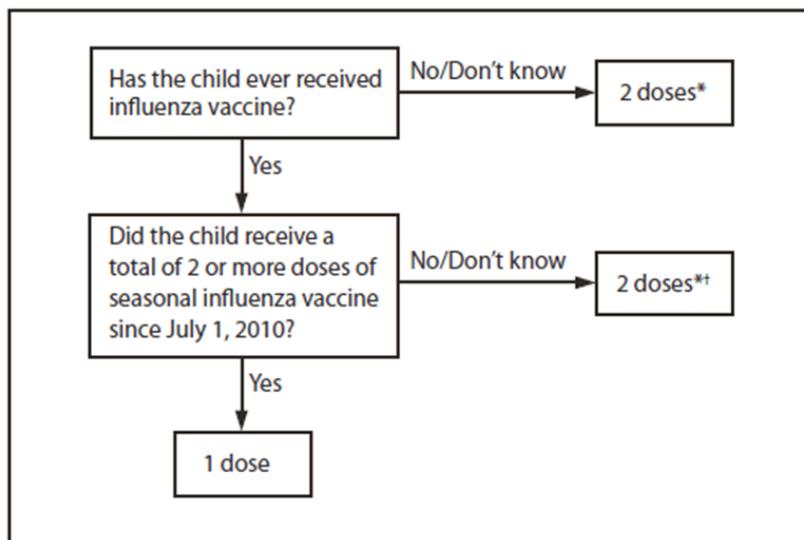
As the influenza season progresses, please note the following:

- The Vaccine Program began taking orders for influenza vaccine in August. If you need to submit an initial order, or if you need to order additional vaccine, call our hot line number (1-800-543-7468) to request an order form. Influenza vaccine orders will be accepted by fax (518-474-4222) or email ([nyvfc@health.state.ny.us](mailto:nyvfc@health.state.ny.us)). Since availability varies as the season progresses, it's best to call and request the most up-to-date order form.
- All influenza vaccinations, administered to patients under 19 years of age must be documented in NYSIIS and in the *Monthly Doses Administered Report*.

VISs must be given to each patient or parent/guardian for all influenza vaccines given. VISs for the 2012-2013 season are available at: [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/default.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/default.htm).

Seasonal influenza information can be found at the NYSDOH web site: [www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/influenza/seasonal](http://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/influenza/seasonal).

ACIP recommends two doses of influenza for children under the age of nine years old. Below is an algorithm developed by the CDC to be used when considering influenza vaccine for children six months to eight years of age.



\* Doses should be administered at least 4 weeks apart.

† More information and an additional algorithm option is available in the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMRW) *Prevention and Control of Influenza with Vaccines: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), United States, 2012-13 Influenza Season*: [www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6132a3.htm?s\\_cid=mm6132a3\\_w](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6132a3.htm?s_cid=mm6132a3_w)

## Pentacel® Shortage and Allocation

Sanofi Pasteur notified the CDC in April of a manufacturing delay for Pentacel® (DTaP-IPV/Hib combination) and DAPTACEL® (DTaP) vaccines. This led to a decrease in doses available to customers nationwide. As the CDC has adequate supplies of DAPTACEL® at its VFC program's vaccine distribution center, no allocations or limitations for VFC orders of DAPTACEL® are in place at this time.

It is anticipated that the shortage will continue at least through spring 2013. Ample supplies of DTaP, IPV, and Hib are available. Routine childhood immunization schedules should continue to be followed. The CDC published *Guidance for Vaccinating Children during the 2012 Pentacel and Daptacel Shortage* in May 2012. This document provides information and sample schedules using single component and combination vaccines. This can be found at: [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vac-gen/shortages/downloads/pentacel-guidance.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vac-gen/shortages/downloads/pentacel-guidance.pdf).

The Vaccine Program will continue to allocate vaccine to providers based on the vaccine allocated by the CDC.

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## ProQuad® Availability

ProQuad® (Merck) is now available through VFC. ProQuad® is a combination vaccine for mumps, measles, rubella, and varicella (MMRV). Health care providers can begin ordering ProQuad® when their single antigen products are depleted.

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## VIS Updates

Health care providers are required by the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act (NCVIA) to provide a copy of the most recent VIS to either the adult recipient, or to the child's parent/legal representative (see <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/vis-facts.htm> for more information).

The CDC recently updated VISs for mumps, measles, rubella (MMR) (4/20/2012), influenza (7/2/2012) and *Your Baby's First Vaccines* (11/16/2012).

To obtain the most recent VIS information, including current versions of VISs in more than 30 languages go to: [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/default.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/default.htm).

To receive automatic email notifications on new VISs, go to: [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/default.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/default.htm) and click on "Get Email Updates" on the right side of the screen.

### Reminder!

All VFC health care providers are required to submit a **Provider Profile Update (PPU)** annually. The PPU consists of three parts:

- *The Provider Registration and Profile Form (DOH-3836)*
- *Vaccine Storage and Handling Plan*
- 30 day temperature log for the 30-day period immediately preceding the submission of the PPU

The PPU will be mailed to health care providers in Spring 2013. The due date will be specified in the cover letter.

**Failure to submit the PPU will result in a suspension of ordering privileges.**

## Change in Medicaid Billing for Vaccine Administration

### Vaccines for Children Program (VFC) - Vaccine Administration

Beginning for dates of service on and after January 1, 2013, health care providers will be required to bill vaccine administration code **90460** for administration of vaccines supplied by VFC. This includes administration of influenza and pneumococcal vaccines. Reimbursement is **\$17.85**. Providers **must continue to bill the specific vaccine code with the “SL”** modifier on the claim (payment for “SL” will be \$0.00). If an administration code is billed without a vaccine code with “SL”, the claim will be denied. For reimbursement purposes, the administration of the components of a combination vaccine will continue to be considered as one vaccine administration. More than one vaccine administration is reimbursable under 90460 on a single date of service.

**90460** Immunization administration through 18 years of age via any route of administration, with counseling by physician or other qualified health care professional; first or only component of each vaccine or toxoid administered.

### Medicaid Primary Care Rate Increase

Transition to the vaccine administration codes will allow primary care physicians and other practitioners to be eligible for the Medicaid Primary Care Rate Increase under the Affordable Care Act. Additional information on the Primary Care Rate Increase will be disseminated in upcoming Medicaid Update articles and [emedny.org](http://emedny.org). Sign up via eMedNY LISTSERVE® to get immediate updates for your provider type: [https://www.emedny.org/Listserv/eMedNY\\_Email\\_Alert\\_System.aspx](https://www.emedny.org/Listserv/eMedNY_Email_Alert_System.aspx).

### Questions:

Medicaid billing assistance: call Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC) at 1-800-343-9000.

Coding, reimbursement assistance: call Office of Health Insurance Programs (OHIP) Operations: [dprum@health.state.ny.us](mailto:dprum@health.state.ny.us) or (800) 342-3005, option 4.

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## Storage and Handling Practices

### CDC Storage and Handling Guidance

The CDC has posted two new resources for public and private sector health care providers on its web site:

- *Vaccine Storage and Handling: Interim Guidance* is intended for use by all public and private health care providers. The document provides guidance on appropriate vaccine storage and handling practices based on recent scientific studies (see the document for references to the studies).
- *Interim Guidelines for Vaccine Storage and Handling: Frequently Asked Questions*.

These documents are in response to recent scientific studies on equipment used for vaccine storage and a better understanding of best practices for vaccine storage and handling. At this time, these are **recommendations** and NYS VFC providers are **not** required to purchase new equipment. The CDC is currently evaluating the most efficient and cost effective methods to phase in these recommendations, and more guidance will be forthcoming.

As VFC health care providers read the CDC recommendations, note the following:

- Use of dormitory style refrigerators has been prohibited in NYS since 2010. This is not a new requirement for NYS health care providers.
- NYS VFC providers have been required, since November 2011, to have calibrated thermometers with a valid Certificate of Traceability and Calibration in all units where publicly funded vaccine is stored. Use of a digital data logger, although recommended by the CDC, is not required in NYS at this time.
- As health care providers replace existing equipment, refer to the CDC guidelines to make informed decisions.
- The Vaccine Program will be working with the CDC as these recommendations are phased into requirements. We will collaborate with the CDC to provide guidance to health care providers as this process continues.

NYSDOH Regional Representatives and Vaccine Program staff are available to answer questions as the process continues (see Page 7 for contact information).

To read these new CDC resources go to: *Vaccine Storage and Handling: Interim Guidance*: [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/storage/interim-storage-handling.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/storage/interim-storage-handling.pdf)

*Interim Guidelines for Vaccine Storage and Handling: Frequently Asked Questions*: [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/storage/interim-faq-storage-handling.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/storage/interim-faq-storage-handling.pdf)

## CDC Vaccine Storage and Handling Toolkit

The CDC recently updated the *Vaccine Storage and Handling Toolkit*. The toolkit is a comprehensive resource for providers on vaccine storage and handling recommendations and best practice strategies. It includes considerations for equipment, both storage units and thermometers, strategies for maintaining the cold chain, routine storage and handling practices, inventory management and emergency procedures for protecting vaccine inventories.

The toolkit can be found at: [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/storage/default.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/storage/default.htm)

### Test Yourself

Why is the center of a vaccine storage compartment the proper placement for the thermometer?

- A) It serves as a dividing line for the separation of vaccines.
- B) It is easier to take temperature readings in this position.
- C) It is the easiest way to position the thermometer.
- D) It provides a temperature reading of the center of the compartment where vaccines should be stored.

(The answer is on Page 6.)

## Frequently Asked Questions

This issue of *Immunize NY!* highlights frequently asked questions from the CDC publication: *Interim Guidelines for Vaccine Storage and Handling: Frequently Asked Questions* ([www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/storage/interim-faq-storage-handling.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/storage/interim-faq-storage-handling.pdf)).

### 1. Is it more harmful for refrigerated vaccine to be too warm or too cold?

While exposure to both warm and cold temperatures can affect the potency of refrigerated vaccine, exposure to freezing temperatures will destroy some refrigerated vaccines. Hepatitis B and DTaP/Td/DT/Tdap vaccines are especially sensitive to freezing temperatures. That is why it is important to regularly monitor the temperature of your vaccines and take quick action when temperature excursions occur. It is also critically important that your vaccine storage equipment meet current recommendations and be able to maintain correct storage temperatures.

### 2. What temperature is considered an excursion for refrigerated vaccine? Frozen vaccine?

Any temperature reading outside the ranges noted in the table below is considered a temperature excursion. If there is a question about whether a vaccine has been exposed to a temperature excursion, label the vaccines "DO NOT USE" and store them under appropriate conditions separate from other vaccines. Then, contact the vaccine manufacturer for further guidance. NYS VFC providers are also required to notify the Vaccine Program at 1-800-543-7468.

|                       | Minimum Temperature | Maximum Temperature |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Refrigerated vaccines | 35° F (2° C)        | 46° F (8° C)        |
| Frozen Vaccines       | -58° F (-50° C)     | +5° F (-15° C)      |

## VFC Provider Manual

The Vaccine Program is pleased to announce the publication of the *New York State Department of Health Vaccines for Children Provider Manual* (Provider Manual). The Provider Manual helps participating providers understand policies and procedures, how to run the daily operations of the VFC program and how to keep the program running smoothly. Federal and state Vaccine Program policies are highlighted throughout the manual. The Provider Manual was posted on the NYSDOH website in August and the feedback has been positive. Many providers have commented on how useful it is. The manual should be made available to physicians, nursing staff, and business administrators in every practice.

The *Provider Manual* is posted online at: [www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/providers/vfc\\_provider\\_manual/](http://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/providers/vfc_provider_manual/).

If you do not have Internet access in your office, please call the Vaccine Program hotline at 1-800-543-7468 for alternative ways to access the manual.

In September a webinar highlighting the Provider Manual was conducted by the NYSDOH Bureau of Immunization staff. The recorded version of the *NYSDOH Vaccines for Children Provider Manual Webinar* is now available for viewing. The link below will take you to the NYSDOH **Immunization Update Webinar Series** web page where you will find the program and how to access it. On this web page are past webinars that may also be of interest to you. If you are unable to click on the link, please copy and paste the link into your web browser. [www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/providers/webinar\\_series.htm](http://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/providers/webinar_series.htm)

### Test Yourself Answer

(from Page 5)

The correct answer is D: “It provides a temperature reading of the center of the compartment where vaccines should be stored.”

All refrigerators vary with warmer and colder storage areas that differ within each unit. For more information, see the CDC presentation *Guidelines for Storage and Temperature Monitoring of Refrigerated Vaccines* at:

[www.nist.gov/pml/div685/grp01/upload/Guidelines-for-Storage-and-Temperature-Monitoring-of-Refrigerated-Vaccines.pdf](http://www.nist.gov/pml/div685/grp01/upload/Guidelines-for-Storage-and-Temperature-Monitoring-of-Refrigerated-Vaccines.pdf)

Slides 14 and 15 show examples of how to set up vaccine storage units.

### Parent Resources

The CDC has updated the fact sheets in the *Diseases and the Vaccines that Prevent Them* series. The fact sheets provide information and true stories about 14 different diseases that vaccines help prevent.

There are two versions of each fact sheet.

- The *Disease Basics* include an overview of each vaccine-preventable disease and vaccine information. *Disease Basics* (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade reading level) are available in Spanish and English.
- The *In-Depth Information* sheets (10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade reading level) use a narrative style and some include a true story about a family affected by a vaccine-preventable disease.

To access the fact sheets go to: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/patient-ed/conversations/prevent-diseases/index.html>.

## Important Contact Information

NYSDOH Bureau of Immunization VFC email: [nyvfc@health.state.ny.us](mailto:nyvfc@health.state.ny.us)

VFC Hotline: 1-800-543-7468 (KID-SHOT)

Website: [www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/vaccines\\_for\\_children.htm](http://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/vaccines_for_children.htm).

For further information, please contact your local health department or your regional NYSDOH Bureau of Immunization:

*Western Regional Office*

Buffalo/Rochester: 716-847-4501

*Central New York Regional Office*

Syracuse: 315-477-8164

*Capital District Regional Office\**

Albany: 518-474-4578

*Metropolitan Area Regional Office*

New Rochelle: 914-654-7149

Central Islip: 631-851-3096

Monticello: 845-794-5627

VFC providers and facilities in New York City should contact the New York City Immunization Hotline at 347-396-2400.

Email the NYSDOH Bureau of Immunization VFC to receive this e-newsletter directly if you did not.

\*The NYSDOH Bureau of Immunization Capital District Regional Office staff has moved.

New contact numbers for Mark Amyot, Barbara Joyce, Susanne Koban, and Nevillene White are:

Phone: 518-474-4578

Fax: 518-474-5500