

# Vaccines for Children Provider Notice



Pennsylvania Department of Health,  
Bureau of Communicable Diseases, Division of Immunizations

**May 24, 2017**

## **Upcoming Influenza Vaccine Season**

During the first week of June, all VFC facilities will receive a PA VFC influenza letter and paper vaccine order form for the upcoming 2017-2018 influenza season. Please complete and return the vaccine order form with your **pre-booked** order by July 28, 2017. Any additional requests may be placed throughout the rest of the influenza season by completing and submitting a separate paper order. This will ensure that your influenza order reflects the current needs of your practice while avoiding having to try to predict influenza vaccine needs several months ahead of time. As with every influenza season, orders will be completed based on the supply of vaccine available.

**Note: Please make copies of the vaccine order form if you anticipate multiple requests.** If you have questions, please contact the Division of Immunizations at 888-646-6864.

## **2017 PA VFC Program Provider Handbook**

The PA VFC Program is pleased to announce that the “2017 PA VFC Program Provider Handbook” will be distributed via the U.S. Postal Service and available on the PA VFC website during the month of June 2017. The provider handbook is a comprehensive guide which outlines the procedures and requirements for participation in the PA VFC program. It also contains all necessary programmatic forms and documents.

Call the PA VFC toll free line at 888-646-6864 for any questions or assistance.

## **Pennsylvania Immunization Conference**

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Pennsylvania Immunization Conference will be held on Thursday, June 15, 2017, at the Hilton Hotel – Harrisburg, Pa. Participants are healthcare professionals from Pennsylvania and the surrounding regions; including but not limited to: pediatricians, nurse practitioners, health educators, pharmacists, public health staff, epidemiologists, physician’s assistants, EMT and EMS staff, school nurses, medical/nursing students, practice managers and immunization coalition members. Some of the conference objectives include:

- Describe current ACIP immunization recommendations in local clinics and practices to maximize protection against vaccine preventable diseases throughout Pennsylvania.
- Review the revised Pennsylvania school immunization laws; discuss role of healthcare practitioners and school districts to administer immunizations, as well as status of exemptions.
- Utilize an ethics framework to analyze mandatory immunization, its clinical efficacy, and to establish its validity as a matter of social responsibility and not simply personal preference.

- Utilize the Pennsylvania Vaccines for Children program storage and handling requirements, and feature best practices demonstrated at various health care settings.
- Describe life-altering changes among persons who have been diagnosed with hepatitis and pertussis.

Pennsylvania Department of Health, American Academy of Pediatrics (Pennsylvania chapter) and Penn State College of Medicine are sponsors for this conference. For more information and to register for the conference, click on the link: <https://ce.med.psu.edu/23rd-annual-pennsylvania-immunization-conference/>

## **Vaccine Borrowing**

VFC-enrolled facilities must maintain adequate inventories of vaccine to administer to both privately insured and VFC-eligible children. Borrowing of vaccine between the two vaccine inventories must be a rare, and unplanned occurrence. Borrowing vaccine must be due to unforeseen delays or circumstances surrounding the vaccine that was ordered.

The Vaccine Borrowing Report must be completed when either:

- Privately purchased vaccine is administered to a VFC-eligible child; or
- VFC vaccine is administered to a privately insured child.

The Vaccine Borrowing Report must be kept at the provider site for review by the immunization nurse during VFC site visits. Borrowing should only occur when there is a lack of appropriately stocked vaccine (VFC or provider purchased) due to unexpected circumstances, such as a delayed vaccine shipment, vaccine spoiled in-transit or new staff error. In order for children to receive vaccines through the VFC program, eligibility screening and documentation must take place at each immunization visit prior to immunization.

## **Question of the Month**

**Question:** How long should providers allow for delivery of vaccines after an order has been approved?

**Answer:** Providers should allow five to nine business days for shipping, keeping in mind that shipping times can take longer due to holiday closures and weather related delays. You should also make sure that you reconcile your inventory before placing any orders for vaccines. If inventory is not reconciled, it could cause a delay in the approval of the vaccine order.

**Note:** Fahrenheit refrigerator temperatures are now 36.0°F – 46.0°F. Any out-of-range temperatures require an incident report.