

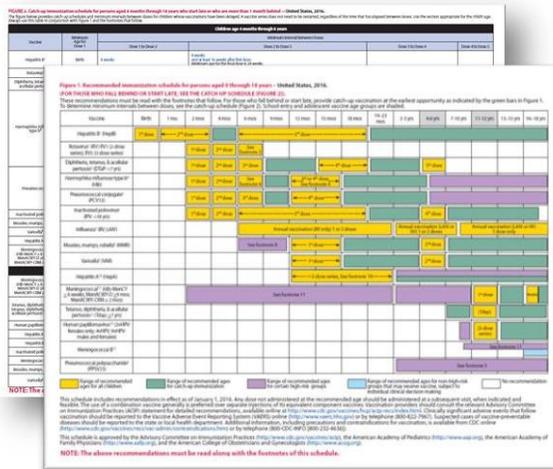
PA VFC PROVIDER

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

January 31, 2016

Childhood Immunization Schedule

The 2016 Childhood Immunization Schedule is now available online. Every year, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) develops recommendations for routine use of vaccines in children, adolescents, and adults.



The following hyperlink will provide access to “The Recommended Immunization Schedules for Persons Aged 0 Through 18 Years” and “Catch-up immunization schedule for persons aged 4 months through 18 years” <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/downloads/child/0-18yrs-child-combined-schedule.pdf>.

We encourage you to share this information with your members by forwarding this message and/or by using social media to spread the message about the new schedules.

CDC Requirement

Dormitory-style or bar styled refrigerators is prohibited for PA VFC vaccine storage. Effective immediately, vaccines stored in dormitory style units are **considered non-viable** and must be returned to the centralized distributor McKesson Specialty.

A dormitory-style refrigerator is a unit that has both refrigerator and freezer compartments behind a single exterior door. Dormitory-style units also have an evaporator plate (cooling coil), which is usually located inside an icemaker compartment (freezer) within the refrigerator.

2016 Cold Chain Failure

Recently the Cold Chain Failure (CCF) policy was revised and accompanying reference documents were emailed to your facility. The new “Cold Chain Bulletin” and “Transporting Refrigerated Vaccine” documents are available at [PA VFC "What's New"](#). If you have any questions regarding the revised policy please contact the Division of Immunizations at (888) 646-6864.

2016 VFC Annual Training Requirement

Annually, VFC providers must complete educational trainings on proper storage and handling of VFC vaccine. The CDC requirements stipulate facilities complete annual educational training prior to the end of each year. **Both the VFC contact and the Back-up Contact are required to complete annual education.**

Ways to meet the CDC requirement for annual education:

1. During current calendar year, receive one VFC site visit which could be:
 - Having a VFC compliance visit with the immunization nurse, or
 - Requesting an annual provider training with the immunization nurse

2. By **October 1, 2016**, complete **both** of the following 2016 CDC required provider annual educations:
 - View both CDC “You Call the Shots” programs, and printing credentials from CDC website
 - [Vaccines For Children \(VFC\) JAN 2016](#) Scroll to bottom of page and click "continue" to start program and next view
 - [Vaccine Storage and Handling JAN 2016](#) Scroll to bottom of page and click "continue" to start program.

After completing each survey simply print the provided certificates fax or email a copy to your immunization nurse, next you must document the training in the “**Education Roster**” (Section 6A) of the PA VFC Provider Handbook and retain for three years.

Reminder & Recall Systems

Immunization reminder and recall systems are cost-effective methods to identify and notify families whose children are due soon for immunizations (reminder) or are already behind (recall). They have demonstrated to be an effective strategy for increasing a healthcare facility’s childhood immunization rates.

Please visit the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) list of reminder-recall vendors at <https://www.aap.org/en-us/advocacy-and-policy/aap-health-initiatives/immunization/Pages/reminder-recall-systems.aspx>. Please note that neither PA VFC nor AAP can endorse or recommend specific products or brands.

Question of the Month?

Question: What does it mean to be “VFC underinsured?”

Answer: Underinsured means your patient has health insurance, but it won’t cover the vaccine(s) because:

- It doesn’t cover any vaccines, or
- It doesn’t cover certain vaccines, or
- It covers vaccines but has a fixed dollar limit or cap for vaccines. Once that fixed dollar amount is reached, a child is then eligible. Underinsured children are eligible to receive vaccines only at FQHC or RHC or under an approved deputized State Health Center.