



## **PROVIDER UPDATE**

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

**July 10, 2014**

### **Vaccine Storage Changes are Coming!**

By January 2015, **household dual control combination units** are to be accompanied by a stand-alone freezer. A 90-day grace period will be given during a site visit for providers to obtain a stand-alone freezer. Site visits conducted resulting in the discovery and use of a household dual control combination unit will require a provider facility to obtain a stand-alone freezer within a 90 day time frame.

Effective immediately, any out-of-range (OOR) temperatures or other issues related to a household dual control combination storage unit will require a provider facility to obtain VFC program approval to continue use of the household dual control combination storage unit.

Provider facility's by January 2015, with **household single control combination units** are required to be accompanied by a stand-alone freezer in order to avoid suspension of ordering privileges. During a 2015 site visit provider facilities with single control unit will be suspended from ordering vaccine until a stand-alone freezer is obtained.

In 2014, the CDC recommended auto defrost (**self-defrosting**) units, but alternatively, if a provider facility's has a manual defrost, they should have another storage unit available to temporary offload vaccines while defrosting the manual defrost unit. Additionally, provider facility's with frost-free freezers should check drain pans for mold and clean if present. For more information please see the "Vaccine Management Job Aid" attached to this Email or contact us at 888-646-6864 for a copy.

### **Patient Eligibility Screening & Documentation**

Enrolled provider facilities must screen and document VFC program eligibility for VFC children at every visit. VFC eligibility screening and documentation of eligibility status must take place during each immunization visit to ensure the child's eligibility status has not changed. Documentation must occur either utilizing a hard-copy or electronic form for the purpose of capturing and retaining the child's VFC eligibility. All reporting elements contained within the "VFC Patient Eligibility Screening Form" must be captured and retained for every visit with in a similar paper or electronic form (see the 2014 PA VFC Handbook, Section-6).

An example would be a provider facility documents a patient's VFC eligibility and eligibility category every visit via a drop down box within an electronic health record (EHR) system or a file note is entered stating "Patient is VFC eligible has Medicaid".

## **Pentacel Vaccine Vial Changes**

Effective immediately, the blue with purple half-moon cap for Pentacel vaccine vials are being replaced with a solid blue cap. Any questions please contact 800-822-2463 for assistance. See the following example below:



## **PA VFC Question of the Month**

**Question:** The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recently voted to recommend which flu vaccine for healthy children 2-8 years of age?

**Answer:** On June 26, 2014, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted to recommend a preference for using the nasal spray flu vaccine (i.e., LAIV) instead of the flu shot (i.e., IIV) in healthy children 2-8 years of age when it is immediately available. Please click the following link to access complete information related to this topic [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices \(ACIP\) recommends a preference for using the nasal spray flu vaccine.](#)