



## **PROVIDER UPDATE**

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

**June 2, 2014**

### **Influenza Vaccine Ordering**

In preparation for the 2014-2015 influenza season, the Pennsylvania Vaccines for Children (PA VFC) Program has mailed the annual influenza packet to all PA VFC providers during the week of June 1<sup>st</sup>. To ensure that your facility obtains adequate amounts of vaccine, please indicate the number of anticipated doses for the 2014-2015 influenza season on the "Influenza Vaccine Ordering Form" contained within the annual influenza packet. Completed order forms for influenza vaccine may be emailed to [paimmunizations@pa.gov](mailto:paimmunizations@pa.gov) or faxed to (717) 441-3777 or (717) 441-3800. Please submit your orders by **July 31, 2014**. Distribution of the influenza vaccine should begin in September or October.

### **Dating of Menactra Vaccine**

The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) has indicated that for the next several months Menactra vaccine orders being shipped from McKesson Pharmaceutical distribution depots are likely to have expiration dating between 4 and 7 months. In order to best manage your facility's Menactra inventories, please submit smaller and more frequent orders of Menactra product. It is important that facilities routinely rotate all vaccine stock, and avoid waste by utilizing doses with the shortest expiration dates first to ensure that no dosage is wasted or expired.

Contact the PA VFC toll free line 1-888-646-6864 if you have problems or need help ordering vaccine. Menactra prescribing information can be accessed at the following link [https://www.vaccineshoppe.com/image.cfm?doc\\_id=12580&image\\_type=product\\_pdf](https://www.vaccineshoppe.com/image.cfm?doc_id=12580&image_type=product_pdf).

### **Varivax Shipping Schedule**

As of June 1, 2014, Merck has made adjustments to their direct ship vaccine shipment schedule for Varivax vaccine (i.e., no changes for ProQuad). With this change, facilities may receive direct ship vaccine shipments on any day of the week for which the facility shows open hours in their PA-SIIS online account. Specifically, facilities may receive shipments on Monday and Tuesday, which is a change from the current shipment schedule of Wednesday through Friday. Please ensure that (1) facility shipping hours are up to date in PA-SIIS, and (2) your VFC Representatives are aware of this change in the delivery of their Merck vaccine shipments of Varivax. For Varivax prescribing information please access the following link

access [http://www.merck.com/product/usa/pi\\_circulars/v/varivax/varivax\\_pi.pdf](http://www.merck.com/product/usa/pi_circulars/v/varivax/varivax_pi.pdf). For questions about the new shipping schedule for direct ship vaccines, please contact the Merck Vaccine Customer Center at 877-VAX-MERCK (877-672-6372)

## **2014 PA VFC Program Provider Handbook**

The PA VFC Program is pleased to announce that the 2014 PA VFC Program Provider Handbook will be distributed via the US Postal Service during the 1<sup>st</sup> week of June 2014. For questions or assistance call the PA VFC toll free line at 888-646-6864.

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

**Can I charge Medicaid VFC-eligible children vaccine cost?**

**A:** VFC vaccines are provided to enrolled facilities free of charge so any child that is **VFC-eligible**, regardless of Medicaid status must be provided vaccine free of charge. This means that providers cannot charge a **Medicaid or a non-Medicaid VFC-eligible** child a cost for the vaccine. A facility may charge a **non-Medicaid VFC-eligible child** an administration fee which cannot exceed the maximum regional charge of \$23.14 per vaccine. No VFC eligible child may be refused administration of a vaccine due to an accompanying adult's inability to pay an administration fee.

Providers participating in a Pennsylvania Medical Assistance (MA) Managed care organization (MCO) network must abide by payment arrangements as stated in their individual MCO contract. All providers with billing questions should contact the MA provider inquiry number at 1-800-537-8862.