



PROVIDER UPDATE

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

August 20, 2014

Purchasing a New Freezer or Refrigerator

The attached "Vaccine Storage Job Aid" is a compiled short list of refrigerators and freezers requirements that would be appropriate for VFC vaccine storage. The instructions do not endorse any specific products, but are a checklist supplied by the CDC which can guide you in your vaccine refrigeration purchases. Storage units must be approved by the VFC program, so before making your final decision, please contact your PA VFC Immunization Nurse Consultant for review and approval. PA VFC Immunization Nurse Consultants are listed in the (PA VFC Provider Handbook, Section 5) or call 1-888-646-6864.

Has Your Facility Changed?

Please ensure that your VFC programmatic information remains current. You can update your facility information through the [PA-SIIS Online Registry](#) or for those facilities without Internet access can update the PA VFC Provider Agreement form. The PA-SIIS Online Registry or the PA VFC Provider Agreement form must be updated annually and more frequently if:

- 1) Facility's shipping and mailing address or contact Email addresses;
- 2) Number of children served changes;
- 3) Type of the facility changes (i.e. proper documentation must be forwarded to the DOH before a change in status is made); or a provider is added or deleted from the practice.

Text4baby

Your help is needed in spreading the word about Text4baby, a free service that provides women with important health information during pregnancy and until their baby's 1st birthday. Pregnant women and new mothers who text "BABY" (or "BEBE" for Spanish) to 511411 receive three weekly messages, timed to their due date or their baby's birth date. They'll learn about labor and delivery, nutrition, breastfeeding, safe sleep, developmental milestones, smoking cessation, immunization and more. And it's free! Go to <http://www.text4baby.org> to sign up and learn more about text4baby and the contest. To order free text4baby materials please contact Lissette Cortes at lcortes@pa.gov.

PA VFC Question of the Month

Question: August is National Immunization Awareness Month, what two vaccines do ACOG and the CDC recommend that all pregnant women receive?

Answer: An **influenza vaccine** at any stage during their pregnancy and a **pertussis (Tdap) vaccine** between 27 and 36 weeks gestation of **each** pregnancy, regardless of the timing of past doses. Additional resources are available for National Immunization Awareness Month at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/events/niam.html>