



## **PROVIDER UPDATE**

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

**March 18, 2015**

### **Order Vaccine each Month**

The designated ordering period for all facilities (also known as EOQ) will be monthly. All facilities are requested to order appropriate quantities of vaccines between the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. Below are some helpful ordering tips!

- Ordering on a monthly basis will help to prevent wasted and expired vaccines
- Before ordering check vaccine refrigeration to determine the presentation type and number of dose on-hand
- Logon to PA-SIIS and remember to reconcile your inventory for all VFC vaccines before placing your order.
- Order by number of **doses needed** – NOT by number of packages

If you have any question please contact the VFC program at 888-646-6864.

### **Purchasing a New Refrigeration Unit?**

Vaccine storage units must be selected carefully so if you need assistance prior to purchasing a new vaccine storage unit please contact the Pennsylvania Vaccines for Children program (PA VFC). Pennsylvania Department of Health (PA DOH) supplied vaccine must be stored in stand-alone storage units and or medical grade combination unit. Facilities with household combination units must only use the refrigerator portion and must have separate stand-alone freezer. Dorm-style refrigerator or freezers are prohibited for storage of VFC vaccine.

- VFC Immunization Nurses will provide your facility with practical advice prior to purchase.
- Once a unit is purchased the unit cannot be used until one to two weeks of stable in range temperatures are documented and faxed to VFC Immunization Nurse.
- VFC Immunization Nurse will visit your facility to assure that the storage unit is operational and safe for VFC vaccine.
- Once the VFC Immunization Nurse has approved the new storage unit, VFC vaccine can be stored.

Biomedical-grade refrigerators and freezers are considered the best and most secure option for vaccine storage. Being a “gold-standard” product, biomedical-grade products require a larger financial investment.

## **Vaccine Wastage and Return**

In 2014 VFC providers reported and returned non-viable vaccines, not including influenza vaccines, costing **\$7,005,848**.

### **Reasons:**

- Expired - **\$4,234,076**
- Failure to properly store - **\$1,145,397**
- Mechanical failure - **\$1,114,006**
- National disaster/power outages - **\$470,269**
- Others (reason not indicated) - **\$42,098**

The loss of vaccines costing **\$5,379,474** could have been prevented by you, the provider, by following the simple steps listed below.

### **Expired - \$4,234,076**

- Check and rotate your inventory on a weekly basis
- Administer shorter-dated vaccines first
- Post a vaccine expiration date table on the refrigerator and freezer
- Order enough vaccines to get you thru the month based on inventory on hand
- Deplete current single antigen vaccine inventory prior to switching to a combination vaccine containing those antigens
- Notify the VFC program to assist in relocating vaccines expiring in 90 to 120 days that will not be administered at your facility

### **Failure to properly store - \$1,145,397**

- Monitor and record temperatures twice daily
- Respond to temperatures outside of the manufacturers recommended range
- Properly and promptly store vaccines upon delivery
- Assure that storage unit doors are properly closed

Store and rotate vaccine accordingly. Click the following hyperlink to identify [Expiring Vaccines by LOT#](#).

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

**Question:** Do VFC facilities need to use the new temperature logs that document the min/max temperatures?

**Answer:** Yes, temperature logs using a min/max temperature must be used and a copy is provided with instructions in Section 6 of the PA VFC Provider Handbook. Collecting the min/max temperatures has been pivotal in maintaining proper temperatures thereby ensuring the viability of vaccines.