



PROVIDER UPDATE

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

November 19, 2014

VFC Holiday Ordering and Shipping Schedule 2014

November 2014 Ordering and Shipping:

Last day to order vaccine will be November 21, 2014.

Last day to receive vaccine will be November 25, 2014.

McKesson will not ship vaccine November 25 through November 28, 2014.

McKesson will resume shipping December 1, 2014

December 2014 Ordering and Shipping:

Last day to order vaccine will be December 15, 2014.

Last day to receive vaccines will be December 19, 2014.

Vaccine will not be shipped December 20 through January 3, 2015

McKesson will resume shipping January 5, 2015

VFC Vaccine Management Education Visit

Each enrolled and active VFC provider must receive an educational contact during each calendar year. These educational opportunities must cover all VFC requirements with special emphasis on proper storage and handling of VFC vaccine. Documentation of training, certificates and login sheets must be kept on site for a minimum of three years. The VFC immunization nurse will review the documentation of training at every compliance or unannounced visit.

There are four ways to meet the CDC requirement for annual education:

1. A VFC site visit;
2. Previous attendance (January – October 2014) of a Pennsylvania Immunization Education Program update seminar/webinar and documentation on your educational roster.
3. Access CDC “You Call the Shots” training modules at the following hyperlinks:
You Call the Shots-Module Sixteen-Vaccines for Children Program—2014
<http://www2a.cdc.gov/nip/isd/ycts/mod1/courses/vfc/ce.asp>;
Immunization: You Call The Shots—Module Ten—Storage and Handling—2014
<http://www2a.cdc.gov/nip/isd/ycts/mod1/courses/sh/ce.asp>. Once completed please remember to print the training certificate and retain a copy for your files.
4. View the video “Keys to Storing and Handling Your Vaccine Supply” and print CEU certificate from the CDC website. The video is found at the following sites: <http://www2a.cdc.gov/vaccines/ed/shvideo/>.

Medical Assistance Flu Codes

The following quadrivalent flu procedure codes are specific to age of the patient as well as whether the vaccine is preservative free. There are currently three procedure codes on the MA fee schedule for administration of quadrivalent flu vaccine:

- Code 90685 for preservative free, quadrivalent flu vaccine administered to children 6-35 months of age;
- Code 90686 for preservative free, quadrivalent flu vaccine administered to individuals 3 years of age and older;
- Code 90688 for quadrivalent flu vaccine, administered to individuals 3 years of age and older;
- Code 90749 is currently used for both **unspecified** and **specified vaccine** which is active in the Fee-For-Service (FFS) Pennsylvania Medical Assistance (MA) fee schedule and should be used for the administration of quadrivalent flu vaccine, for children ages 6 to 35 months.

If you have any questions please contact the appropriate MCO Representative or the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare at 1-800-692-7462.

Limited Effectiveness of LAIV in 2013-2014 Flu Season

During the October 2014 ACIP meeting, information was presented which indicated that there was no measurable effectiveness of the 2013-2014 live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) against the influenza A (H1N1) strain. However, the LAIV has been shown to be effective against influenza A (H3N2) and influenza B strains in the past. Both CDC and the American Academy of Pediatrics have issued updates regarding the use of LAIV and inactivated influenza vaccine for the 2014-15 season. Links to both statements are below.

The CDC update states:

1. Surveillance shows that there is substantially more circulation of influenza A (H3N2) and B viruses and very little circulating H1N1 so far;
2. LAIV has been shown to offer good protection against influenza A (H3N2) and influenza B viruses in the past;
3. LAIV may offer better protection than IIV against antigenically drifted viruses that may circulate this season; and,
4. Vaccine providers have received their vaccine for the 2014-2015 season and have likely administered a good proportion of it; ACIP and CDC have not changed the current influenza vaccination recommendations.

People who have not been vaccinated yet this season should get vaccinated now. Parents should seek to get their children immunized with whatever vaccine is immediately available and indicated. Influenza vaccination should not be delayed to procure a specific vaccine preparation. The HealthMap Vaccine Finder can be used to locate vaccine.” The CDC update can be found at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/news/nasal-spray-effectiveness.htm>. The AAP statement can be found at: <http://aapnews.aappublications.org/content/early/2014/11/06/aapnews.20141106-1>.

Question of the Month?

Question: Is it necessary for VFC providers to fax temperature logs to the PA Division of Immunization and where can I find temperature logs?

Answer: Please do not send or fax temperature logs to the Division of Immunization; unless requested. Three years of temperature logs are to be kept at your provider office and be available for the DOH Immunization Nurse to review during site visits. The new temperature logs have space to document minimum and maximum temperatures and can be found in the “2014 Vaccine Provider Handbook; Section 6H”.