

## **PROVIDER UPDATE**

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

**February 18, 2015**

### **Updated Vaccine for Children Website**

We are very happy to announce that we've released our newly updated website! In the coming months we will continue adding more opportunities for provider training. Please save the following new hyperlink in your favorites <http://www.health.pa.gov/My%20Health/Immunizations/Vaccines-for-Children/Pages/default.aspx>



Once you access the new Vaccine for Children (VFC) Webpage scroll down the webpage and click on the "VFC Training" link. You will find the following new 2015 Provider Training opportunities:

#### **You Call the Shots-Module Sixteen-Vaccines for Children Program—2015**

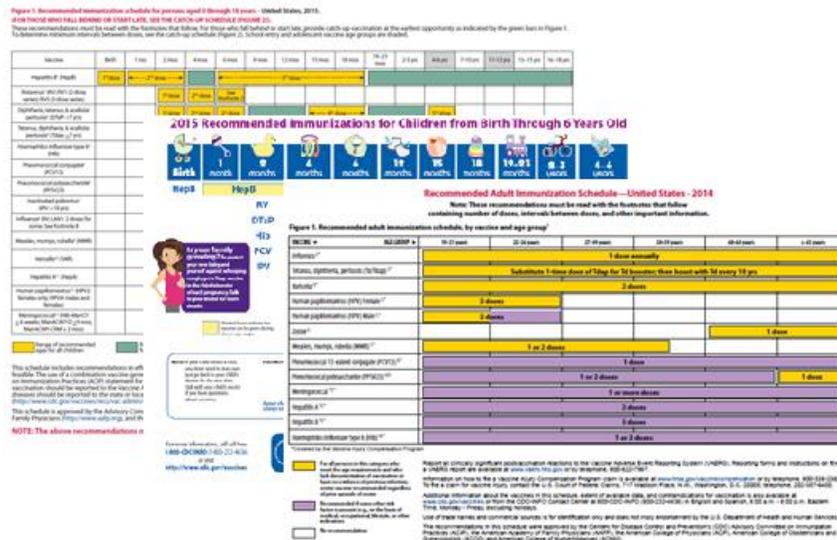
<http://www2a.cdc.gov/nip/isd/ycts/mod1/courses/vfc/ce.asp>

#### **Immunization: You Call The Shots—Module Ten—Storage and Handling—2015**

<http://www2a.cdc.gov/nip/isd/ycts/mod1/courses/sh/ce.asp>

## Childhood Immunization Schedule

The [2015 Childhood Immunization Schedule](#) is now available online. Every year, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) develops recommendations for routine use of vaccines in children, adolescents, and adults. When adopted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Director, they become official CDC /United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) policy. The [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#) will publish a summary of childhood schedule changes in early February.



- Providers will remain suspended until a stand-alone freezer is acquired

Absolutely **NO DORMITORY** style units will be accepted, this is an immediate suspension of vaccine ordering privileges.

For more complete information regarding this matter or to access the Vaccine Cold Chain Transmittal, please click the following hyperlink:

[http://www.health.pa.gov/My%20Health/Immunizations/Vaccines-for-Children/Documents/Cold\\_Chain\\_Bulletin\\_12\\_14.pdf](http://www.health.pa.gov/My%20Health/Immunizations/Vaccines-for-Children/Documents/Cold_Chain_Bulletin_12_14.pdf).

## Vaccine Storage Guide

### Proper REFRIGERATOR Temperatures

Refrigerate anthrax, DTaP, DT, Td, Tdap, hepatitis A and B, Hib, HPV, influenza, IPV, Japanese encephalitis, meningococcal, pneumococcal, rabies, rotavirus, typhoid, and yellow fever.

Aim for 40°F (4°C)

Too cold      35°F (2°C) to 45°F (8°C)      Too warm

### Proper FREEZER Temperatures

Freeze MMR, MMRV, varicella, and zoster. Don't freeze liquid vaccines!

Aim for 0°F (-18°C)

Too cold      -5°F (-20°C) to 5°F (-23°C)      Too warm

### Proper Set-Up

#### Refrigerator-only unit

- X** No food or beverages in refrigerator!
- X** No vaccine in doors! Fill space with water bottles.
- X** Monitor is outside of storage unit.
- X** No vaccine in drawers or on floor of refrigerator! Fill space with water jugs.

#### Combination refrigerator/freezer unit

- X** No vaccine
- X** No vaccine in doors! Fill space with frozen packs.
- X** No food or beverage in refrigerator or freezer.
- X** No vaccine on top shelf
- X** No vaccine in drawers or on floor of refrigerator!
- X** No vaccine in doors! Fill space with water bottles.

**For all units:**

- ✓ Group vaccines by type. Clearly label the designated space for each vaccine.
- ✓ Keep vaccine 2-3 inches away from walls and other boxes.
- ✓ Post **Do Not Unplug** stickers on electrical outlets. Plug in only one unit per outlet.
- ✓ Place vaccine in open plastic trays.
- ✓ CDC recommends separate, stand-alone refrigerator or freezer units.
- ✓ Place thermometer probe in the center of the unit. Post a temperature log on the door.

## PA VFC Question of the Month

**Question:** As a provider I am aware that it is strongly recommended that PA DOH supplied vaccine be stored in standalone refrigerators and freezers. Do I need to get rid of my household combination unit? It is fairly new and keeps good temperatures.

**Answer:** In compliance with 2015 PA VFC requirements you may store vaccine in the refrigerator portion of the household combination unit and approved standalone freezer. The CDC encourages the use of medical grade storage units.