

PA VFC PROVIDER

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

September 22, 2015

Vaccine Shipping Container

The shipping container used by Merck & Co., Inc. has change and is designed to help ensure that vaccines maintain the appropriate temperature(s) during transit. According to Merck the new design maintains appropriate temperatures even under conditions and time frames that typically exceed conditions normally experienced in transit. Merck’s “Shipping Time” insert will appear inside the shipping container as 1 day, 2 day or 4 days which indicates the number of days the vaccine shipment delivery can maintain proper temperature. The “Shipping Time” insert shown below indicates that the vaccines delivered will maintain appropriate temperatures “4 days” from the shipment date which appears on an enclosed “Packing slip”.



If you have a question or would like to further discuss your specific shipment with a Merck Representative, please contact the Merck Vaccine Customer Center at 1-877-829-6372.

Vaccine Ordering

Below are some helpful tips when ordering PA VFC vaccines.

- All providers are recommended to order monthly (between the 1st and 15th). To expedite orders, please ensure that all shipments are indicated as accepted and inventories have been reconciled properly.
- You should reconcile your inventory before each order is placed. Your inventory on hand should match what is in your refrigerator and freezer. Contact VFC personnel for assistance at 1-888-646-6864 or to request a training aid.
- To accept your shipments correctly in PA-SIIS you must enter the total volume received and be sure it matches total volume shipped. Then select yes, so it populates into your inventory. Contact VFC personnel for assistance at 1-888-646-6864 or to request a training aid.

- You should review and update the primary and/or backup contact names and email addresses whenever there is a change under Clinic Settings in PA-SIIS at <https://siis.health.state.pa.us/siis>.
- You should contact your Immunization Nurse to pick up vaccines up to 90 days before expiration if your facility is not able to administer the vaccine prior to expiration.

HPV 9 Valent Vaccine

On May 26, 2015, the PA Vaccines for Children Program made available for ordering 9-valent human papillomavirus (HPV 9) vaccine. During this transition period, patients that were previously administered with HPV4 vaccine should continue and complete the series with HPV4 vaccine. Patient's starting a new series should begin and complete their series with the new HPV 9 vaccine. Facilities should continue to vaccinate with their remaining HPV 4 until their inventories have been depleted. This will prevent vaccine wastage of HPV4. Please see below for additional tips on how to prevent vaccine wastage.

- Store and rotate vaccines weekly according to expiration dates. Use vaccines with the shortest expiration dates first.
- Identify any vaccines that will expire within 90 days. Contact your Immunization Nurse for assistance or to pick up vaccines up to 90 days before expiration if your facility is not able to administer the vaccine prior to expiration.

For more information, and to review the HPV 9 Vaccine Information Statement please click on the hyperlink below. <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/vis-statements/hpv-gardasil-9.html>

If you should have any questions or concerns please contact the DOH Bureau of Communicable Diseases Division of Immunizations at (888) 646-6864.

Get Smart About Antibiotic Resistance Program

In response to the surge in antibiotic resistance (ABR) nationally, the Pennsylvania Department of Health has partnered with the Centers For Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The "Get Smart About Antibiotic Resistance Program" aims to address the rampant over-prescribing practices of practitioners and encourage youth and parental awareness as to when antibiotics are necessary and good preventative practices for health.

Every year it is estimated more than 2 million Americans experience complications due to ABR and more than 23,000 of these cases lead to death. Our initiatives include:

- Hand washing demonstrations in daycare facilities
- Educating parents as to what symptoms indicate a need for antibiotics and what do not
- Arming pharmacy students with knowledge about ABR to disseminate to the community
- Increasing vaccination rates among all members in communities, particularly daycare workers, etc.

To learn more about what Pennsylvania is doing to help people "Know When to Say No", visit the [University of Pennsylvania, Perelman School of Medicine website](#). Kids can get involved, too! To find out more about the 2015 Get Smart Competition for Young Artists and Writers, [click here](#).

Question of the Month?

Question: When should you complete a vaccine incident report?

Answer: The "Vaccine Incident Report and Worksheet" is completed by PA VFC Facilities when vaccine storage unit temperatures are out of range for more than 30 minutes or if compromised VFC vaccine is administered to a child.