



PA VFC PROVIDER

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

April 29, 2016

Pennsylvania Immunization Conference

The 21st Annual Pennsylvania Immunization Conference will be held on Thursday, June 16, 2016, at the Penn Stater Hotel and Conference in Center State College, PA. The Pennsylvania Department of Health in collaboration with the Pennsylvania Immunization Coalition (PAIC) and the Penn State College of Medicine are sponsoring this conference to bring immunization partners together to share information, discuss current issues, and recommend strategies to improve immunization rates in Pennsylvania. The following are just some of the conference objectives:

- Use current ACIP immunization recommendations in local clinics and practices to maximize protection against vaccine preventable diseases throughout Pennsylvania
- Discuss current Pennsylvania immunization laws, including the role of pharmacists to administer immunizations and the status of religious and philosophical exemptions.
- Use evidence-based strategies to prepare practice settings for measles outbreaks
- Describe the physiologic and psychosocial life altering changes among persons who have been diagnosed with HPV related cervical cancer

For more information and to register for the conference please click on the following hyperlink

[Pennsylvania Immunization Conference](#)

9-Valent Human Papillomavirus

Beginning May 1, 2016, CDC will no longer supply the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program with human papillomavirus vaccine Cervarix (HPV 2) or Gardasil (HPV 4) vaccines. The VFC Program will continue to supply recently licensed and recommended Gardasil (HPV 9) vaccine. Transitioning to HPV 9 is permitted for the purpose of completing the HPV vaccination series. Please continue to deplete your current stock of HPV 2 and HPV 4 inventory to avoid waste.

Recommend the HPV Vaccine

Do not miss your chance to prevent cancer. The CDC recommends the vaccine for all preteen boys and girls at 11-12 years. Unfortunately, in the United States, HPV vaccination rates are relatively low and some reasons for this are parents often don't know much about the HPV vaccine. Interviews show that most parents want this vaccine for their children. Recommend the vaccine for all boys and girls by saying, "Your child needs 3 vaccines today- Tdap, HPV and MCV," or "Today, your child should have 3 vaccines. They're designed to protect them from cancers caused by HPV, tetanus, diphtheria, & pertussis and meningitis".

- Recommend the HPV vaccine in the same way at the same time as Tdap and MCV. Bundling is more effective.
- Your recommendation matters most to parents.
- Recommend HPV vaccine at every opportunity, including well and sick visits.

When parents ask questions related to the HPV vaccine they are doing so to get your reassurance that they are making the right decision. Simple answers about cancer prevention and personal attestations work best. Use [CDC TIPS and Time-saver sheet](#) for evidence-based messaging with parents.

New 2016 Annual Training

During each calendar year CDC requires enrolled VFC providers to receive annual educational training. These educational opportunities must cover all VFC requirements with special emphasis on proper storage and handling of VFC vaccine. One way to meet this annual requirement is through the new "**2016 Annual Provider Training**". The new 2016 Annual Provider Training is offered online at the PA VFC Training website page and can be accessed through the following hyperlink [2016 Annual Provider Training](#). Once you have completed the training program simply fill out the online survey indicated at the end of the training program. It is that easy! For more complete information, please refer to VFC annual training requirement contained within [Section 4 Vaccine Storage and Handling](#) of the PA VFC Handbook.

Upcoming Influenza Vaccine Season

Good news for offices with multiple influenza vaccine order requests for the upcoming 2016-2017 influenza season; you no longer need to include staggered shipment dates on the paper vaccine ordering form. During the first week of June all facilities will receive a PA VFC influenza letter and paper vaccine order form. Please complete and return the vaccine order form with your **prebooked** order by July 29, 2016. Any additional requests may be placed throughout the rest of the influenza season by completing and submitting a separate paper order. This will ensure that your influenza order reflects the current needs of your practice while avoiding having to try to predict influenza vaccine needs several months ahead of time. As with every influenza season, orders will be completed based on the supply of vaccine available. (Note: Please make copies of the vaccine order form if you anticipate multiple requests). If you have questions, please contact the Division of Immunizations at 888-646-6864.

Wastage of Td and Pneumovax

The PA VFC Program is responsible for reducing vaccine loss due to wasted vaccines. The program has noticed an increasing amount of wasted Td and Pneumovax (PPV23) vaccine. To avoid waste Td and PPV23 may be ordered as a single dose if a 10 dose package is not needed. If you have questions, please contact the Division of Immunizations at 888-646-6864.

Question of the Month?

Question: *What is the single best predictor that an adolescent will receive the HPV vaccination?*

Answer: *Studies show that a strong recommendation from you is the single best predictor of vaccination.*

Source: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/who/teens/index.html>