



# Vaccines for Children Provider Notice

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

**July 2019**

## **Billing of Administrative Fees for VFC Vaccine – Important Policy Notification**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has shared the following guidance involving VFC providers and vaccine administration fees. There has been some confusion regarding whether or not VFC providers could bill VFC eligible patients (parents, etc.) for administration fees **after** the visit has occurred if the patient was unable to pay on the date of the visit. After consultation with CDC legal and policy staff, CDC will make the following change, **effective January 1, 2020:**

**Providers cannot bill for the administration fee after the date of service. The provider must waive the administration fee if the patient or parent is unable to pay the fee when the service is received, and the provider cannot bill the patient/parent for any waived administration fees at a later time.** Providers may still continue to bill for office visits as allowed under VFC policy, and unpaid bills related to office visit fees or other fees (e.g., labs) may be sent to collections. Unpaid administration fees, however, may not be sent to collections, and the provider may not refuse to vaccinate an eligible child whose parents have unpaid vaccine administration fees.

## **Returning Vaccine, including Influenza**

Providers are reminded that expired influenza vaccine is handled the same as other vaccines when it needs to be returned.

All vaccines, **including flu**, deemed “spoiled/expired returnable” should be returned **within six months following expiration date**. However, vaccines that have expired more than six months previously will still be accepted. When requesting a shipping label for the return of vaccines, please allow one to five business days to receive notification. Complete the vaccine return and accountability form for returning all vaccines ([Section 6-F of Vaccines for Children Handbook](#)).

Please remember to include your **PIN** number on **all** correspondence and documents sent to the VFC Program.

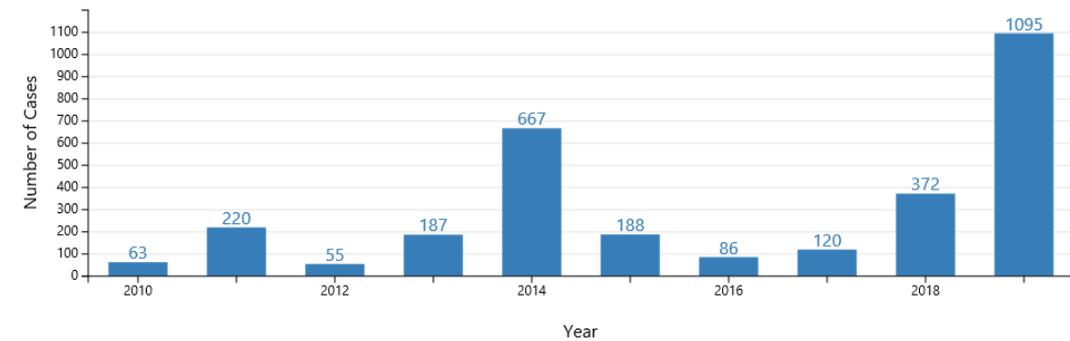
## **Measles Cases: Latest Numbers**

As we progress through 2019, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) continues to update data on measles cases. According to the CDC, “from January 1 to June 27, 2019, **1,095\*\*** individual cases of measles have been confirmed in **28** states. **This is an increase of 18 cases from the previous week.** This is the greatest number of cases reported in the U.S. since 1992 and since measles was declared eliminated in 2000.

The states that have reported cases to CDC are Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New Mexico, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, **Pennsylvania**, Texas, Tennessee, Virginia, and Washington.”

## Number of Measles Cases Reported by Year

2010-2019\*\* (as of June 27, 2019)



\*Cases as of December 29, 2018. Case count is preliminary and subject to change.

\*\*Cases as of June 27, 2019. Case count is preliminary and subject to change. **Data are updated every Monday.**

Measles is so contagious that if one person has it, up to nine out of 10 people around them will also become infected if they are not protected. The virus can cause serious health complications, such as pneumonia or encephalitis, and even death. CDC continues to encourage parents to get their children vaccinated on schedule with the MMR vaccine. People 6 months and older should be protected with the vaccine before leaving on international trips.

We appreciate your help spreading this message. For additional information and resources on measles please visit the CDC's measles website (<https://www.cdc.gov/measles/index.html>).

### **Who Needs a Measles Vaccine During an Outbreak?**

The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) offers [this educational video](#) concerning measles outbreaks, featuring Dr. Paul Offit. In the video, Dr. Offit discusses measles, the recent outbreaks, and different measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine considerations for certain populations.

### **Influenza ordering: 2019-2020 Information**

Communications have been sent out to both public and private sites to prepare for ordering influenza vaccine for the 2019-2020 season. Providers who have not received this season's information can access it at the following links:

[VFC Public Providers Influenza Letter](#)

[VFC Public Providers Vaccine Order Form](#)

[VFC Private Providers Influenza Letter](#)

[VFC Private Providers Vaccine Order Form](#)

**Please add the Vaccines For Children email to your address book: [RA-pavfc@pa.gov](mailto:RA-pavfc@pa.gov)**