

Suspension of Immunization Site Visits During COVID-19 Outbreak **Guidance to Providers**

All site visits including compliance, new enrollment, IQIP, and storage and handling conducted by immunization nurses will be suspended due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The length of the suspension is currently unknown and will be determined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and applicable state agencies.

During this time, providers are expected to maintain proper storage and handling protocols to ensure vaccine viability. For storage and handling guidance please see the Provider Handbook (current version June 2019) located on the Department of Health website at the following link <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/programs/immunizations/Pages/VFC.aspx>.

In lieu of site visits and/or prior to ordering, enrolled VFC providers may be asked to provide:

- Temperature logs for at least 3 months. These logs should include downloaded temperature data from the dataloggers and the twice daily manual recordings.
- Training certificates (CDC's You Call the Shots Modules 10 Storage and Handling and 16 Vaccines for Children Program) for 2020.
- Up-to-date certificates of calibration for digital dataloggers. If calibration certificates are not current, no orders for vaccine can be processed.
- Pictures of vaccine storage units (inside and outside) detailing datalogger probe placement to ensure proper storage and handling.
- Current emergency plan. A template can be found in Section 6-E of the Provider Handbook located at [health.pa.gov/topics/programs/immunizations/Pages/VFC.aspx](https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/programs/immunizations/Pages/VFC.aspx).

The submission of the requested items will not substitute for a site visit when the suspension has been lifted, unless otherwise directed by the CDC.

Please contact RA-pavfc@pa.gov with any questions or concerns.