



## Vaccines for Children Provider Notice

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

**November 2019**

### **Borrowing Influenza Vaccine: Guidelines**

Providers cannot borrow state-supplied seasonal influenza vaccine for privately insured patients. Providers may use private stock seasonal influenza vaccine to vaccinate VFC eligible children if VFC seasonal influenza stock is not yet available. Those private stock doses used on VFC eligible children can later be replaced as VFC stock becomes available. Replacement must be made within 90 days unless clinic can justify delay.

**\*\*Please Note:** Providers are **not** permitted to replace privately purchased flu vaccine administered on VFC eligible children with VFC vaccine (when VFC flu vaccine is unavailable) if they bill Medical Assistance (MA) for the vaccine cost.

This **one-directional borrowing** exception is unique to seasonal influenza vaccine and is a requirement of the CDC.

**The following must be documented for every borrowed vaccine a patient receives:**

- Vaccine name
- Private dose borrowed
- Reason vaccine borrowed
- Patient's name
- Patient's date of birth
- Date vaccine administered
- Date vaccine paid back
- Provider signature certifying accuracy and compliance with VFC requirements

**To properly manage inventory and track influenza dose borrowing, VFC providers MUST:**

- Maintain an inventory for VFC-eligible children and a separate inventory for privately insured children;
- Manage private-stock inventory correctly in order to replace any borrowed vaccine. Providers need to be certain any vaccine given is accounted for accurately;
- Be sure to not borrow more private-stock vaccine than was pre-booked through VFC flu order;
- Replace stock with the same product when borrowing from private-stock. List of VFC supplied Flu vaccines is available on the Pennsylvania Division of Immunization webpage; and
- Replace borrowed vaccine dose for dose.

### **PA Medical Assistance Policy for Vaccines**

In accordance with § 1150.51(a) related to general payment policies, payment will not be made for a covered medical service or item if payment is available from another agency, insurance or health program. Thus, the MA Program will not pay for a vaccine for a recipient 18 years of age and under when that vaccine is available to providers under the Vaccines for Children Program. The department encourages MA enrolled providers that administer vaccines to participate in the VFC Program. Those providers who wish to enroll in VFC may do so by calling the PA Department of Health VFC Program office at 1-888-646-6864.

### **PA Medical Assistance Policy Exception for Flu Vaccine**

One exception, however, is coverage of the flu vaccine. The MA Program covers the flu vaccine for a recipient of any age; although, MA providers are encouraged to utilize flu vaccine provided by the VFC Program at no cost to the provider for a recipient 18 years of age and under when there is no shortage of VFC supply. Should you have any questions please contact the department's Division of Immunizations at 888-646-6864.

### **Preventing errors when dealing with vaccines**

The Immunization Action Coalition (IAC) is a valuable partner for resources regarding vaccines.

Two articles offered on the IAC site that may be of interest to Vaccines for Children providers are highlighted here:

- [Don't Be Guilty of These Preventable Errors in Vaccine Administration!](#)
- [Don't Be Guilty of These Preventable Errors in Vaccine Storage and Handling!](#)

Providers in the VFC program are encouraged to visit the [IAC website](#) to access these articles and to utilize many other educational tools.

### **Growing Up with Vaccines: What Should Parents Know?**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) offers an informative handout providers can use for parent education.

[Growing Up with Vaccines](#) details vaccines needed before birth, before school and into adulthood.

Further information on vaccines and immunizations can be found on the [CDC Vaccines page](#).

### **Latest Update: Measles Outbreak**

From January 1 to November 7, 2019, 1,261 individual cases of measles have been confirmed in 31 states.

- This is the greatest number of cases reported in the U.S. since 1992. More than 75% of the cases this year are linked to outbreaks in New York. Measles is more likely to spread and cause outbreaks in U.S. communities where groups of people are unvaccinated.
- The majority of cases are among people who were not vaccinated against measles.
- Measles can cause serious complications. From January 1 – November 7, 2019, 123 of the people who got measles this year were hospitalized and 61 reported having complications, including pneumonia and encephalitis.

The states that have reported cases to CDC are Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New Mexico, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, **Pennsylvania**, Texas, Tennessee, Virginia, and Washington. All measles cases this year have been caused by measles wild-type D8 or B3.



Please remember to include your Provider Identification Number (PIN) on **all** correspondence and documents sent to the Vaccines for Children program.

The PIN assigned to your site is a unique identifier; please use your PIN for all communications with the VFC program. **Please note, this includes voicemails and emails.**

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