



Oklahoma State
Department of Health

Oklahoma Immunization Update October 2008

DISEASE and PREVENTION SERVICES
IMMUNIZATION SERVICE

PLEASE POST & DISTRIBUTE TO ALL NURSING AND MEDICAL STAFF

New Influenza Vaccine Recommendations

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations for Prevention and Control of Influenza include the following new recommendations:

- Vaccinate all children 6 months through 18 years of age annually.
- Consider use of live, attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) for vaccination of healthy persons aged 2 through 49 years of age who are not pregnant.
- **Add a new screening question when using LAIV in children 2 - 4 years of age:**

Parents of children 2-4 years should be asked: *"In the past 12 months, has a healthcare provider ever told you that your child had wheezing or asthma?"* Children, whose parents answer "yes" to this question, or whose medical record notes asthma or a wheezing episode within the past 12 months, should not receive LAIV (FluMist®). These children should receive inactivated influenza vaccine.

Pentacel® Ordering

The introduction of Pentacel vaccine by sanofi Pasteur has resulted in decreasing the amount of the company's ActHIB supply despite helping slightly to improve the overall national supply of Hib-containing vaccines. The resulting increase in Hib supply is not substantial enough yet, to lift the recommendation for deferring the Hib-booster dose. State VFC programs will continue to receive a monthly allocation of Hib vaccines and providers should continue to defer the booster dose as is appropriate to their clinic's supply. However, as a result of the slight increase in supply, the Oklahoma Immunization Service will consider requests for additional Pentacel vaccine as long as total Hib doses ordered do not exceed the overall Hib allocation for the clinic. Overall Hib allocations are based on the total number of children seen in each practice. If additional Pentacel vaccine is requested, please remember that you must continue to use your supply of Pediarix and will need single antigen Hib vaccine for children who are receiving Pediarix.

Vaccine Ordering and Shipping

All Vaccines for Children (VFC) providers are on a shipping schedule either, monthly, bi-monthly or quarterly. The Immunization Service was required by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to implement this plan when all shipping was

transferred to McKesson. **Forced orders are for needs above your reorder amount or for vaccines that are not yet on automatic reorder.** Forced orders are not shipped sooner than regular orders. They are shipped on the same monthly, bimonthly and quarterly schedule as all other vaccines. If you are force ordering vaccine because you are not receiving enough vaccine to last until your next shipment, contact your Immunization Field Consultant or Regional Immunization Coordinator and work with them to adjust your automatic vaccine order levels. In special circumstances, such as back-to-school, special clinics, etc., an extra shipment can be made. You **must** place the forced order in OSIS and call your Immunization Field Consultant, Regional Immunization Coordinator, or the Immunization Service.

Varicella Vaccine Ordering and Shipping

Varicella vaccine orders are handled differently than all other vaccines because varicella vaccine is shipped directly to clinics from the manufacturer. Varicella orders are generated weekly for all providers showing doses needed in OSIS. If additional varicella vaccine is needed, force an order and it will be pulled along with the weekly varicella orders. Data entry in OSIS **must be** up to date for orders to be generated.

Dorm Style Refrigerators Must Be Replaced for Permanent Storage of VFC Vaccines

CDC is requiring all state VFC programs to work with VFC providers to eliminate the use of dorm-style refrigerators as permanent storage units for VFC vaccine by December 31, 2009. Dorm-style refrigerators place vaccine at a high risk of freezing. One of the main reasons that CDC is taking this action is the rising cost of VFC vaccine. As VFC vaccine cost approaches \$3 billion, it is essential for the integrity and continuation of the VFC program to ensure that VFC vaccine is stored in appropriate units, which decreases the chance of vaccine loss due to inappropriate storage conditions. Another equally important reason for this action is that failure to store vaccines at the proper temperatures can reduce their potency and result in an inadequate immune response in the vaccinee. Please call your Immunization Field Consultant or Regional Immunization Coordinator if you have questions about this change.

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If you have any questions about this material please contact the

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