

## The BackPage

July/August 2011

### DTaP Resolution

The VFC Resolution for Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis changed in June 2011. The purpose of the new resolution is to revise the previous resolution to incorporate new

recommendations regarding the vaccination of pregnant adolescents. The new VFC resolution can be found at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/vfc/acip-vfc-resolutions.htm>

### Flu Update

Flu confirmation letters were mailed on June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011 to notify providers of the number of doses of VFC flu vaccine they will be receiving for the 2011-12 flu season. Contact Susan Kocen at (804) 864-8079 regarding VFC flu vaccine needs.

### VISs

Federal law stipulates you must give your patients current Vaccine Information Statements (VISs) each time a dose of vaccine is given. Need a VIS? Search <http://www.immunize.org/vis>

### Storing and Transporting Frozen Vaccines

Merck, the manufacturer of VARIVAX and ZOSTAVAX has recently changed the shipment packaging for these frozen vaccines and issued new FDA approved guidance regarding caution in the use of dry ice for storage of frozen vaccines. New shipment packaging became effective June 6, 2011. Merck no longer ships these vaccines to customers on dry ice as they did in the past. The quantity of gel packs placed in the container is based on carefully determined guidelines that are designed to maintain proper temperatures for three days from the shipment date located on the packing list. If the container is received after the three-day shipping time period, the provider should contact the Merck Order Management Center immediately for replacement instructions at 1-800-637-2579. Such requests for replacements must be received by Merck within 15 days of the original shipment date. Shipments now contain shipper inserts in brightly distinguishable colors that inform the recipient of the new pack-out, storage of vaccine and diluent as well as reporting and replacement instructions if there is a question regarding the shipment. The vaccine is located in the lower compartment of the shipping box. Providers should immediately open the container and store the vaccine in the freezer. To maintain potency the vaccine must be stored frozen between -58°F and +5°F (-50°C to -15°C). The diluent is located in the top compartment of the shipping box underneath the cardboard cap. The diluent should be stored on arrival in a refrigerator (2°C to 8°C/36°F to 46°F) or at room temperature (20°C to 25°C/68°F to 77°F). The CDC and the vaccine manufacturer do not recommend transport of frozen vaccine. However, it is understood that under certain circumstances (emergencies, power outages, etc) frozen vaccine may need to be transported. The manufacturer does not recommend reuse of shipping materials, including gel packs and shipping containers, to further transport vaccine products. Improper re-packaging using these materials and improper transportation could negatively impact the vaccine. If frozen vaccines must be transported, the CDC recommends transport with a portable freezer that maintains a temperature between -58°F and +5°F (-50°C and -15°C). In addition, according to the manufacturer's Prescribing Information, Varivax and Zostavax may be stored at refrigerator temperature (36°F to 46°F, 2°C to 8°C) for up to 72 continuous hours prior to reconstitution. If transporting frozen vaccine under refrigerated conditions, document EXPLICITLY: 1) time refrigerator storage began; 2) time refrigerator storage ended; and 3) storage temperatures under which the vaccine was kept for this period of time.


The manufacturer should be called before discarding frozen vaccine that has been kept under refrigerated storage conditions. Questions regarding vaccine shipments should be directed to the manufacturer at the number listed above. The CDC is currently working with Merck to respond to questions generated by the new shipment packing for frozen vaccines and the manufacturer's advisement that dry ice should not be used for storage of these frozen vaccines.

### Vaccine Returns and Transfers

Please remember to complete and forward a vaccine return/transfer form to the VVFC Order Center at (804) 864-8090 when transferring VVFC vaccine to another participating VVFC provider, including affiliate offices.

### Gold Star Awards

#### Outstanding VVFC Compliance



Access Health Care, Forest  
All Pediatrics Of Lake Ridge, Woodbridge  
Blue Ridge Job Corps, Marion  
Bluefield Pediatric Cardiology Assoc., Bluefield  
Capital Area Pediatrics-Herndon, Herndon  
Carilion Clinic Family & OB Medicine, Christiansburg  
Carilion Roanoke- Salem Center, Roanoke  
Childrens Clinic, Ltd., Hayes  
Clarksville Primary Care, Clarksville  
Clinch Valley Physicians, Inc., Richlands  
CMG Pediatrics – Kilmarnock, Kilmarnock  
Colonial Heights Medical Center, Colonial Heights  
Community Memorial Health Center, South Hill  
Highland County Health Dept., Monterey  
Dr. Jain, Wise  
Ladysmith Medical Center, Ruther Glen  
Lewis-Gale Clinic, L.L.C., Salem  
Marion Pediatric Associates, P.C., Marion  
Mountainview Pediatrics, Marion  
Orange Family Physicians, Orange  
Pediatric Clinical Services Ltd., Woodbridge  
Pediatric Medical Assoc., Culpeper  
Pediatric Partners Of Hampton Roads, Chesapeake  
Pediatric Primary Care Center-UVA, Charlottesville  
Peninsula Pediatrics, Ltd., Newport News  
Planned Parenthood Of Southeastern, VA Beach  
Potomac Pediatrics, PC, Woodbridge  
Preferred Pediatrics At Lee's Hill, Fredericksburg  
Preferred Pediatrics At Snowden, Fredericksburg  
Riverside Warsaw Pediatrics, Warsaw  
Rockingham-Harrisonburg H.D., Harrisonburg  
Staunton River Family Physicians, Hurt  
Tidewater Children's Associates, Suffolk  
Tri State RH Clinic, Inc., Grundy  
Van Dorn Pediatrics And Adolescent, Alexandria