



Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program

PROGRAM UPDATES

June/July 2011

- **Kinrix®:** Kinrix is unavailable. Providers can use single-antigen vaccines, DTaP (Daptacel® and Infanrix®) and IPV (IPOL®), in place of the combination vaccine.
- **Merck Now Shipping Varivax® with Gel Packs:** Effective June 6, 2011, Merck is no longer shipping Varivax on dry ice. Frozen gel packs will be used as the refrigerant in the shipping container to keep the vaccine at the appropriate temperature during shipping. The six gel packs are designed to maintain the proper temperature for three days from the shipment date on the packing slip. Providers must immediately open the package upon receipt and place the vaccine in the freezer. If the vaccine is received after the three-day shipping period, providers should contact the Merck Order Management Center at 1-800-637-2579 **within ten days** of the original shipment date for replacement instructions. More information is available at: https://www.merckvaccines.com/Professional-Resources/Documents/announcements/New_Shipping_Package_for_VARIVAX_and_ZOSTAVAX.pdf.
- **Keep Your Vaccine Safe:** Now that the 2011 hurricane season has begun, providers should take the time to review and update their *Emergency Response Plan* in order to minimize loss of VFC Program vaccine in the event of a hurricane. A sample plan can be found on the VFC Program web site, http://www.ImmunizeFlorida.org/vfc/provider_manual/emergency_response_plan.pdf. Providers should have back-up generators or a location that has one where vaccine can be stored safely. Providers are responsible for all VFC Program vaccine that is in their possession should an emergency occur.
- **VFC Program Recertification:** Providers must submit annual recertifications to continue participation in the VFC Program. This form can be submitted online (http://www.ImmunizeFlorida.org/vfc/provider_recertification_form.htm) or fax a copy (http://www.ImmunizeFlorida.org/vfc/provider_manual/recertification_form.pdf) to (850) 245-4734. If a recertification was not received by May 31, 2011, the provider **will not** receive any VFC Program vaccine until a completed form is submitted.
- **2010-2011 Influenza Vaccine:** All 2010-2011 seasonal influenza vaccine expires on June 30, 2011. Vaccine can be returned to McKesson Specialty just like regular pediatric VFC Program vaccine. A shipping label can be requested from your VFC Program representative. Remember to fax a *Vaccine Return and Waste Form* (http://www.ImmunizeFlorida.org/vfc/provider_manual/vaccine_return_waste_form.pdf) for all returned and wasted vaccine.
- **Storage Tip:** Keep vaccine, whether in storage baskets or the original boxes, two to three inches away from the walls of your vaccine storage unit and between baskets. This allows your storage unit to properly circulate the air and keep vaccine at the right temperature.
- **VFC Contact Information:**

Telephone: (800) 483-2543	Fax: (850) 245-4734
Email: FloridaVFC@doh.state.fl.us	Fraud and Abuse Hotline: (866) 373-0644
Website: www.ImmunizeFlorida.org/vfc/index.html	