



# Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program

## PROGRAM UPDATES

October/November 2011

- **2011-2012 Seasonal Influenza Vaccine:** 2011-2012 seasonal influenza vaccine is available for all providers after November 1, 2011. To order 2011-2012 seasonal influenza vaccine, use the *Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program Influenza Vaccine Order Form 2011-2012 Season*. Updated order forms are in found the VFC Program Blast Fax archive: [http://www.ImmunizeFlorida.org/vfc/blast\\_fax.htm](http://www.ImmunizeFlorida.org/vfc/blast_fax.htm).
- **VFC Program Eligibility:** All patients should be screened for VFC Program eligibility at every visit. Children birth through 18 years of age and meet the following criteria can receive VFC Program vaccine:
  - ♦ Medicaid eligible (eligibility codes MKA, MKB, and MKC are **not** eligible)
  - ♦ Not Insured
  - ♦ American Indian or Alaskan Native
  - ♦ Underinsured (have insurance but it doesn't cover immunizations) **only at federally-qualified health centers**
- **Help! My Vaccine Shipment Isn't Right:** VFC Program providers should always check the enclosed temperature monitors and contents of a vaccine shipment against the enclosed packing slip. If there are any discrepancies, providers must take action right away.
  - ♦ Providers must call McKesson Specialty directly at **(877) TEMP123 ((877) 836-7123) within two hours of receipt** to report when the temperature monitor indicates there was a temperature excursion. The provider must notify the VFC Program directly at (800) 483-2543 about the temperature excursion and the actions that have already been taken.
  - ♦ Providers must call the VFC Program if the contents of the vaccine shipment do not match the enclosed packing slip. All shipping errors need to be addressed so that orders can be corrected. Examples of such discrepancies are:
    - ♦ Lot numbers do not match
    - ♦ More/less doses of vaccine
    - ♦ Missing/additional types of vaccine
- **Use It All Up:** A multidose vial of polio vaccine can be used until all doses are administered or the expiration date is reached as long as the vaccine has been stored and handled properly and looks normal in appearance. Consult *Epidemiology & Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases (The Pink Book)*, 12th edition, available online at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/textbks-manuals-guides.htm>, for additional guidance on proper vaccine storage and handling.
- **Stay in the Zone:** All VFC Program providers are required to have certified, calibrated thermometers to monitor temperatures of their vaccine storage units. Investment in a reliable certified, calibrated thermometer may be more expensive initially, but more cost-effective by providing assurance that vaccines are properly stored. Be sure to follow the manufacturer's recommendations for the recalibration schedule.
- **VFC Contact Information:**
  - Telephone: (800) 483-2543
  - Fax: (850) 245-4734
  - Email: [FloridaVFC@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:FloridaVFC@doh.state.fl.us)
  - Fraud and Abuse Hotline: (866) 373-0644
  - Website: [www.ImmunizeFlorida.org/vfc/index.html](http://www.ImmunizeFlorida.org/vfc/index.html)

