

Vaccines for Children

Program Updates

December 18, 2015



Shipping Blackout Schedule for December 20 - Friday January 1

Provider orders submitted this week will be delivered during the first & second weeks of January due to our vaccine order blackout period. As a reminder, orders generally arrive at the clinic site within 3-5 business days from the date the order is approved and the order status changes to

“Sent to CDC/Distributor”. For orders placed this week, please note that your 3-5 day delivery window will not start until Monday, January 4.

2016-2017 Flu Pre-Book is now open! Completed surveys are due by 1/8/2016

Below is the link to the 2016 VFC Flu Pre-Book Survey, **due January 8, 2016**:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VFC2016FLUPREBOOK>

Data collected will be used to determine Georgia's pre-booked amounts for the 2016-17 flu season. Please be sure to use the previous years' doses administered and billing data to determine vaccine estimates. Consider doses needed to vaccinate both your VFC and PeachCare eligible patients 0 through 18 years of age.

Please submit one pre-book per clinic location. Verify your VFC PIN, contact name and e-mail address are correct prior to submitting your survey. Incomplete surveys will be discarded. Clinics who successfully complete the survey will receive a confirmation e-mail once your responses have been reviewed and accepted.

Flu Updates

Excess Flu Doses?: Please notify VFC immediately via e-mail at DPH-gavfc@dph.ga.gov. These vaccines should be stored appropriately until a provider willing to accept the excess doses has been identified or vaccine expiration. The provider will be responsible for replacement of any vaccines spoiled or wasted as a result of VFC non-compliance (i.e. vaccines not properly stored).

Flu updates continued on the next page:

Vaccine Updates

Pentacel®: Vaccine in short supply through June 2016. During the shortage, Pentacel orders have been reduced to a 2 month supply.

Recombivax® Syringes: Now available. Providers who switched to vials during the backorder may now switch their preference to syringes.

Additional Vaccine Requests: VFC will allow providers to request up to 30 doses over the amount listed as “doses needed” on the order screen. Requests over this allowance requires approval.

Shipping Blackout Dates

Holiday Blackout:
Monday, Dec 20 –
Friday, January 1, 2016

Contact Us

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Additional Flu Updates

Availability: If you are in need of additional flu doses, please notify VFC immediately via e-mail at [DPH-gavfc@dph.ga.gov](mailto:gavfc@dph.ga.gov). We have a limited number of FluMist (2-18 years) and Fluzone 0.25 single dose syringes (6-35 months) available on a first come, first serve basis. In addition to our supply, there are clinics with doses of 0.5 injectable vaccine (3-18 years) available for transfer. To assist program staff with scheduling transfers within the same county/district, please include the county the clinic is located in when submitting your vaccine request.

Update on shipping status: All flu pre book and wait list orders have been fulfilled as of December 17, 2015.

FluMist® Replacement Program: Med Immune's FluMist® Quadrivalent Replacement Program allows for the replacement of unused, expiring FluMist® Quadrivalent doses ordered and shipped from VFC, at no cost, to help maximize product usage opportunities. For more information and instructions for returning doses for replacement, click on the following link :

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/vfc/downloads/med-fm-rf-instruct.pdf>

Flu FAQ's from <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/faq/>

Q Should I repeat a dose of influenza vaccine that is less than the recommended dose (0.25mL for children 6-35 months; 0.5mL for persons 36 months and older)?

A If a dose of influenza vaccine is administered which is less than that specified in the package insert for that product and for the age of the recipient, it should NOT be counted as valid, and should be repeated. Flu vaccine is available and recommended for almost everyone 6 months of age and older.

Click here to view more helpful influenza questions and answers: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/qa/disease.htm>

Reminder: As of January 1, 2016, household, combination units can no longer be used to store frozen vaccines.

Starting January 1, 2016, providers must comply to the new storage and handling requirement which prohibits storage of frozen vaccine in a standard household-combination unit. Providers currently using the household units like the unit pictured here, must either purchase a stand-alone freezer or a commercial or pharmaceutical grade combination or stand-alone unit.

Providers found in non-compliance during site visits and pop up storage and handling visits will result in suspension of frozen vaccine shipments until a new unit is purchased. For more information on acceptable units, please see the CDC's Storage and Handling Toolkit, pages 27 - 30. Click here to access the toolkit:

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/storage/toolkit/storage-handling-toolkit.pdf>



Pentacel® in Short Supply Until June 2016

Sanofi Pasteur is experiencing a manufacturing delay with Pentacel® and as a result they are unable to meet all of the Pentacel vaccine demand through June 2015. Sanofi Pasteur has sufficient supplies of the relevant single antigen vaccines (DAPTACEL, ActHIB, and IPOL) to address the anticipated gap in Pentacel supply.

Please see the updated document titled Guidance for Children During the Pentacel Manufacturer's Delay at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vac-gen/shortages/default.htm>. The initial document on page 3 showed previous doses of Pentacel vaccines at 1, 2 and 4 months. This updated version shows the correct ages of 2, 4 and 6 months. In addition the HepB vaccine row has been updated to reflect the recommended schedule with doses at birth, 1 to 2 months, and 6 to 18 months.

As a reminder, the formula for predicting the amount of doses to ship has been reduced to a 2 month factor. VFC will closely monitor orders this month to determine if further reductions will be required. VFC will approve up to 50 doses over the amount presumed needed for single antigen DTAP, HIB, and IPOL to accommodate the shortage. VFC will not approve an additional order requests for Pentacel over the doses presumed needed amount until the shortage is lifted.

Vaccine Management Storage and Handling Pilot Project Is Seeking Participants

The Vaccine Management Storage and Handling Pilot Project is looking for Vaccines for Children providers interested in participating in the pilot project. The Project is geared towards helping providers improve monitoring of refrigerator and freezer units designated for VFC vaccine storage; and improvement of vaccine storage and handling practices at the provider level. For participating in the program and to help you fulfill your goals you will receive 2 data loggers (1-refrigerator and 1-freezer). Each data logger must be used to monitor temperatures in storage units that store VFC vaccines. If you store your private and VFC vaccines in the same unit, you are still eligible to receive the complimentary devices. Storage units used to store only private vaccines are not eligible to receive a data logger from the Georgia Immunization Program.

As a requirement of the pilot project, you will be required to submit the following:

1. Manual Temperature logs
2. Extracted Data Logger report

Please contact Kaleisha Biggs @ Kaleisha.Biggs@dph.ga.gov if you're interested in joining the program.

