

Vaccines for Children

Program Updates

July 2020

Updated Guidance: Vaccine Requirements for High School Students

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, implementation of the 11th grade meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4) booster dose requirement was postponed to July 1, 2021. School entrance should **NOT** be impacted for students age 16 years or older who **have** received at least **one** dose of (MCV4) vaccine. The Georgia Immunization Program strongly encourages providers to administer the (MCV4) booster dose per ACIP recommendations. GRITS released a newer version of the immunization certificate (Form 3231) in preparation for the new requirement, originally slated to go into effect this school year.

As a result, parents who elect to defer the MCV4 booster dose may present at enrollment with an expired immunization certificate. Expired certificates for these students will be accepted for the '20-'21 school year. Please be advised, this provision **ONLY** applies to the (MCV4) booster dose requirement. All other school entrance requirements will be enforced. **Additional guidance will be released very soon.**

Vaccine Return Guidance

To ensure timely and accurate returns, see below:

- ⇒ Returns will be processed as they are received.
- ⇒ **Allow 2 weeks to receive your vaccine label and follow up with VFC if it has not been received within that timeframe.**
- ⇒ Return labels are sent via email by UPS to the primary contact on file with VFC.
- ⇒ Return labels are only good for 30 days. Beyond that the entire process restarts, and providers must wait for a new return invoice and label.
- ⇒ **All McKesson return label communications will come from the following e-mail address, McKesson Specialty Distribution [mailto:pkginfo@ups.com] or UPS Quantum View, the server is in the process of being updating. You should confirm that this e-mail address will not be blocked by your e-mail service's spam filters/firewall.**

Only inventory counts submitted on or after July 1 will include expired flu doses. Reports submitted on or before June 30 will not include expired doses, and the return will not be processed until the next report is received.



VFC Customer Service & Immunization Regional Consultant —has transitioned to operating via telework in order to implement social distancing guidance in our workplace

During this transition, we expect to continue with normal business hours.

Inquiries may also be emailed to the VFC Program to:
DPH-gavfc@dph.ga.gov.
Make sure you provide your PIN, topic for the inquiry, and a short description of the issue.

Contact Us

Vaccines for Children Program
Peachtree Street, NW, 13-276
Atlanta, GA 30303-3142
(404) 657-5013
(800) 848-3868 toll free
(404) 657-5736 fax
(800) 372-3627 toll free fax
DPH-gavfc@dph.ga.gov



Flu Season 2020- 2021 Brand, Presentation and CPT Codes

| CPT | NDC | Brand | Presentation | VFC Age Group |
|-------|---------------|------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 90686 | 58160-0885-52 | Fluarix® - Quad | Single Dose Syringe | 6 months – 18 years |
| 90688 | 49281-0633-15 | Fluzone® - Quad | Multidose Vial | 6 months – 18 years |
| 90686 | 19515-0816-52 | FluLaval® - Quad | Single Dose Syringe | 6 months – 18 years |
| 90686 | 49281-0420-10 | Fluzone® - Quad | Single Dose Vial | 6 months – 18 years |
| 90686 | 49281-0420-50 | Fluzone® - Quad | Single Dose Syringe | 6 months – 18 years |
| 90756 | 70461-0420-10 | Flucelvax-Quad | Multidose Vial | 4 years – 18 years |
| 90756 | 70461-0320-03 | Flucelvax-Quad | Single Dose Syringe | 4 years – 18 years |
| 90686 | 33332-0220-20 | Afluaris® - Quad | Single Dose Syringe | 6 months—35 months |
| 90672 | 66019-0307-10 | FluMist-Quad | Single Dose Sprayer | 2 years– 18 years |

FDA Approves HPV Vaccine Gardasil As Throat Cancer Prevention

On June 12, the FDA approved a supplemental biologics licensure application to add a new indication for Gardasil 9 (Merck): prevention of oropharyngeal and other head-and-neck cancers caused by human papillomavirus (HPV) types targeted by the vaccine. Gardasil 9 remains approved for use in individuals 9 through 45 years of age, with no other changes to the previously approved age-specific dosing regimens.

Merck's New Reusable Shipping Container for Vaccines

- o This new shipping container has been designed and certified to help maintain temperature controls for temperature-sensitive customer shipments, while helping to reduce waste and negative impacts on our environment.
- o Merck is undertaking a phased approach to the introduction of a new reusable shipping container for vaccines. In each phase of the roll-out, different geographical areas of the USA will begin regularly receiving all Merck vaccine shipments in the Aerosafe reusable shipping container.
- ✦ Beginning in July 2020, all vaccine shipments to providers in the Western United States will be shipped the new container.



- ✦ Beginning in January 2021, all vaccine shipments to providers in the Eastern United States will be shipped the new container.

However, please be aware that due to the way some orders are fulfilled, it is possible that customers in Eastern States (including GA) may receive their Merck vaccine shipment in the Aerosafe reusable shipping container, but the majority of shipments to GA VFC Providers will be in the current Styrofoam shipping container until January 2021.

Change in FedEx and UPS shipping procedures

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, both FedEx and UPS have temporarily adjusted their signature guidelines for all shipments within the United States. This means that signature requirements may no longer be needed for UPS and FedEx deliveries. Drivers should still capture the recipient's name by entering it manually, unless there is a signature listed on file, in which case the package may be left with no recipient's name entered.

The pandemic and increase in e-commerce order and shipments has had a significant effect on the major carriers. While they are striving to maintain proper procedures during this time there is the chance for procedural lapses. This may cause vaccine orders to be left unattended at providers' offices or delivered outside of hours. While we are working closely with Merck and McKesson to keep this from happening we know that it will. **In order to prevent the loss of vaccine, we ask that providers actively monitor their local guidelines (as signature requirements may vary and evolve depending on phased re-openings) and practice extra vigilance when expecting an order delivery.** We encourage all providers that are expecting vaccine deliveries to routinely check drop-off locations, as well as, prior to leaving for the day. Additionally, please be sure to allow ample time for your vaccine orders and ensure there is sufficient inventory on hand to cover if there is a delay.

Due to COVID-19 some providers are now locking their office doors and restricting entry. If a provider chooses to do this please ensure they have signs that are highly legible and in an easy place for the driver to see, instructing the driver what to do with the package (eg. knock on the door or leave the package on the doorstep). In addition, if the provider keeps their doors locked we strongly encourage that they reach out to their local hub and let them know that they will be locking their doors during regular business hours.

National Immunization Awareness Month

The Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) is asking Georgians to help keep themselves and their neighbors safe by getting vaccinations during National Immunization Awareness Month. National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM) is an annual observance held in August to highlight the importance of vaccination for people of all ages. The Georgia Department of Public Health Immunization Program supports CDC's efforts to maintain routine immunization across the lifespan, especially childhood immunization, during the COVID-19 pandemic. We ask that you help us spread awareness on vaccine-preventable diseases and encourage the community to talk to their health care providers about immunizations.

The CDC has developed a digital media toolkit to assist healthcare professionals in their efforts to educate parents and patients about the benefits of vaccination during August and throughout the year. The toolkit consists of CME opportunities for healthcare professionals, key immunization messages for targeted audiences, sample social media posts, graphics, and sample newsletter content. In lieu of the Immunization Program's annual NIAM media toolkit, we encourage our public health providers to visit the CDC's [NIAM](#) webpage to access tools and resources to promote your local campaigns. Also, please visit the Georgia Department of Public Health website at <https://dph.georgia.gov/immunization-section> for additional immunization updates.