



January 2012

Hawai'i VFC News

Hawai'i Immunization Branch

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The Hawaii Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program staff would like to wish you and yours a very happy, healthy and prosperous New Year!

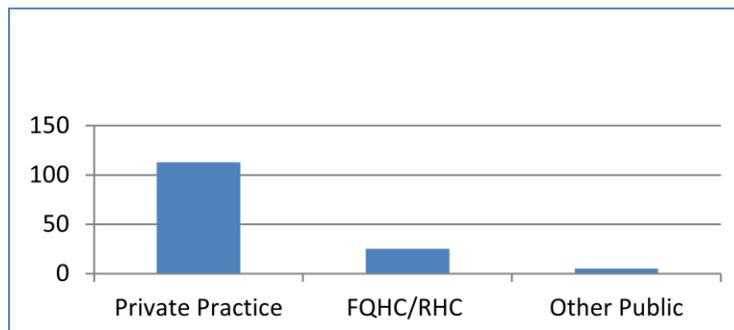
ANNUAL ENROLLMENT FORMS ARE DUE

All Vaccines for Children (VFC) providers should have received the annual VFC enrollment packet via mail in December 2011. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) requires all providers to update the VFC provider enrollment form annually. Please remember to complete and submit your enrollment form **by January 15, 2012**. If we do not receive your completed provider enrollment form by the deadline, your VFC vaccine orders will not be processed. Please contact us at 586-8300 (1-800-933-4832, Neighbor Islands) or e-mail mardelle.gustilo@doh.hawaii.gov if you have not received the enrollment packet. §

2011 VFC/AFIX SITE VISIT SUMMARY

It has been a very busy year for VFC! Our field reviewers have visited more than half of all VFC providers' offices. A total of 143 provider sites received a visit during calendar year 2011, which is approximately 60% of all enrolled VFC providers. The chart below summarizes the number of sites, by provider type, that received a VFC site visit in 2011:

Number of VFC Provider Sites Visited CY2011



In addition, our reviewers conducted immunization assessments in over 30% of these provider sites. Standard assessments determine the immunization status of 24 to 35 month old children. Up-to-date or fully immunized status is defined as having received: 4 DTaP, 3 Polio, 1MMR, a valid Hib series, 3 HepB, and 1 Varicella (or history of disease) by the date of the assessment. Our reviewers also conducted immunization assessments of the adolescent population (13-15 years of age) in 18 of these provider sites. We reviewed immunization status for Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis; Human Papillomavirus (females only); Meningococcal; Hepatitis B; Measles, Mumps, Rubella; and Varicella in this age group.

Since the CDC now requires our program staff to conduct VFC site visits in at least 50% of all enrolled VFC providers sites, we anticipate that providers will receive a VFC site visit at least every other year. These visits do not include any follow-up or educational visits.

We will begin contacting selected VFC providers for this calendar year's VFC site visits in February. §

Vaccine Storage & Handling

Working with VFC Providers and their staff members to be in compliance with CDC vaccine storage and handling guidelines is one of the VFC Field Reviewer's most important tasks. Effective collaboration between VFC Field Reviewers and VFC Providers and their staff members results in the administration of vaccines that will provide protection from vaccine-preventable disease. Consequences of non-compliance with CDC vaccine storage and handling guidelines can be devastating.

For example:

- December 2010 - Pediatric News reported that Baylor College of Medicine in Houston found a significant correlation between the percentage of DTaP vaccine in a health region experiencing prolonged inadvertent freezing temperatures in refrigerators and that region's rate of pertussis.
- November 21, 2011 - Vaccines distributed by the UCLA Arthur Ashe Student Health and Wellness Center between January 2007 and Aug. 18, 2011 were stored at a temperature outside of the manufacturer's recommendation. More than 4,700 current students and more than 7,700 former students were affected.
- December 8, 2011 - Kaiser Foundation Hospital South San Francisco was fined \$50,000 for failing to follow "policies and procedures for the safe and effective administration of medication. In total 3,921 people received "unknown or ineffective vaccination," according to the state report.
- Nov. 12, 2010 - Western Medical Center in Santa Ana, California received its third fine, \$75,000, for improper storage of vaccines. A variety of vaccines were stored at below freezing temperatures for seven months in 2009. As a result, potentially defective Hepatitis B vaccines were given to 1,641 newborns, including five whose mothers have Hepatitis B.
- May 21, 2010 - Peace Health Medical Group in Oregon began revaccinating up to 20,000 patients who were given vaccines that had been stored at improper temperatures last year.

VFC Field Reviewers are available to work with VFC Providers so that problems such as those listed above can be avoided. In addition to regular VFC Site Visits, VFC Educational visits can be scheduled anytime to ensure that Providers and staff members understand their roles in ensuring the effectiveness of the vaccines they administer by implementing and practicing good vaccine storage and handling procedures.

Call 586-8300 (1-800-933-4832, Neighbor Islands) with questions or to request an appointment. §

Talk to the Doc

Marcia Nagao, MD, MPH



Should I immunize an unvaccinated patient who has just recovered from a diagnosed case of influenza?

Yes. Influenza vaccine contains three influenza vaccine virus strains, based on circulating viruses from the previous season. The 2011-2012 influenza vaccine contains the following three vaccine viruses: A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)-like virus; A/Perth/16/2009 (H3N2)-like virus; and B/Brisbane/60/2008-like virus. Infection with one virus type does not confer immunity to the other types; therefore, it is important to vaccinate this patient because it would not be unusual to have exposure to more than one virus type during a typical influenza season. §

Have You HIR'd? VTrckS is Coming!

The Vaccine Tracking System (VTrckS) is a critical component of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Vaccine Management Business Improvement Project (VMBIP). VTrckS is an information technology system that will integrate the entire publicly-funded vaccine supply chain from purchasing and ordering to distribution of the vaccine. VTrckS is anticipated to launch in Hawaii in March, 2013. Prior to implementation of VTrckS, VFC providers will be transitioned to an online vaccine ordering system. Hawaii VFC providers will enter their vaccine orders directly into the Hawaii Immunization Registry (HIR). Vaccine orders received through HIR will be processed by Hawaii VFC Program staff and submitted electronically to CDC through VTrckS.

What can you do now to prepare? Sign up to participate in the Hawaii Immunization Registry so you will be able to place VFC vaccine orders in the future! If you are already a HIR-participating provider, we encourage you to begin using the Registry's robust vaccine inventory and reporting features. The more familiar you are with using HIR, the easier it will be to transition to the online ordering system!

If you would like more information, please contact the Hawaii Immunization Registry Help Desk at (808) 586-4665, 1-888-447-1023 (toll-free) or registryhelp@doh.hawaii.gov. §

REMINDER: VFC VACCINE RETURNS

Last month, we sent all Vaccines for Children (VFC) providers instructions on how to return VFC vaccines to the Hawaii VFC program. This is a reminder that you are required to return spoiled or expired VFC vaccines to the Hawaii VFC program. VFC providers should never dispose of expired VFC vaccine or VFC vaccine that has been spoiled. Vaccine manufacturers provide the federal government with a credit for the vaccine federal excise tax on expired vaccines that are returned to them. Wasted vaccines must also be reported to the Hawaii VFC program. All vaccine transactions should be documented on the Hawaii Immunization Branch Vaccine Transaction Form and submitted to the VFC program.

When returning VFC vaccines to the program, please follow the instructions below:

- A VFC Business Reply Label may be used to return spoiled or expired VFC vaccine to the Hawaii VFC program. Do not use FedEx to return spoiled or expired vaccines.
- The spoiled or expired vaccines do not need to be packed in a cooler with ice. The vaccines should be placed inside a Ziploc or plastic bag to prevent leakage during transportation. A large padded mailing envelope or box may be used for mailing the vaccines.
- Complete the Hawaii Immunization Branch Vaccine Transaction Form
- Fax completed Vaccine Transaction Form to (808) 586-8302
- Include a copy of the completed Vaccine Transaction Form with your vaccine return

Please contact us at 586-8300 (1-800-933-4832, Neighbor Islands) if you have any questions.

"Hawai'i VFC News" is a quarterly publication distributed to all participating VFC providers. Its purpose is to address VFC-related issues, provide general immunization information, and keep you up-to-date with the latest program changes. If you have any suggestions for future newsletter topics, or if you would like to share relevant immunization information with other VFC providers through our newsletter, please contact Mardelle Gustilo at (808) 586-4587 or via e-mail at mardelle.gustilo@doh.hawaii.gov. Neighbor Islands, call toll-free 1-800-933-4832.

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