



October 2011

Hawai'i VFC News

Hawai'i Immunization Branch

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It's That Time of Year Again!

2011 STOP FLU AT SCHOOL VACCINATION CLINICS

Influenza season is here, and the Department of Health is now holding its 5th annual school-located influenza vaccination clinics. This program offers free flu vaccine to students in grades K-8 with parental consent. Beginning on October 17th and continuing through December, these clinics will be held in 336 participating public and private schools statewide. Both the flu shot and flu nasal spray are being offered.

During the 2010 Stop Flu at School clinics, approximately 46%, or nearly 69,000 students were vaccinated. Participation rates have remained consistently high since the program began in 2007 and the Department of Health expects similar numbers this season. To view the statewide clinic schedule, please visit the Stop Flu at School (SFAS) website http://flu.hawaii.gov/SFAS_schedule.html. ♦

VAVR ALERTS

The Department of Health utilizes information from the Vaccine Administration Visit Record (VAVR) for VFC vaccine accountability and reporting purposes. To ensure the data is accurate, VAVR forms may be returned to providers to request confirmation of information.

- A half sheet letter will ask you to verify or complete required sections of the VAVR. For example, the date of birth on the VAVR may not match an otherwise identical patient in the Hawaii Immunization Registry (HIR). A major goal for HIR is to minimize the duplication of immunization records. Please ensure that the informational fields at the top of the form are accurate and legible on each VAVR.
- A full sheet letter will be sent to providers if an administered immunization is deemed invalid. For example, vaccinations recorded on a VAVR may be considered invalid if minimum age requirements for the vaccinations are not met. This could occur if a parent inadvertently records the current year rather than the child's actual birth year on a VAVR. In such a case, vaccinations (e.g. MMR, Varicella, and Hepatitis A), which should be administered to children 12 months of age or older may be displayed as invalid. Should such a situation occur, please correct the VAVR and return it to the Immunization Branch.

Your timely assistance in completing or verifying the information on returned VAVRs is always appreciated. If you have any questions regarding VAVRs that have been returned to your office, please contact the Immunization Branch at (808) 586-8300 or 1-800-933-4832 (Neighbor Islands). ♦

The Importance of Having an Emergency Vaccine Storage Plan

Prolonged power outages whether due to tropical storm, earthquake or man-made disaster are not uncommon in Hawaii, so knowing how to maintain the cold chain for your vaccine supply when there is no electricity is very important.

Planning in advance for an emergency is the first step in effective Emergency Vaccine Management. Share this plan with clinic staff and facilities (e.g., pharmacies or other businesses with electrical generators) whose cooperation may be required in an emergency. Once you have established the who, what, where, when and how of your plan, *write it down*. Not only is a written plan required by the CDC for all VFC providers, it will help to ensure that your supply of vaccine will be managed safely and effectively in an emergency.

VFC Program staff have two templates providers may use to write an Emergency Vaccine Management Plan for their clinic:

- 1) **Transport to another location:** This plan should be used if vaccines are to be transported to another location in the event of a power outage,
- 2) **Sample – Emergency generator within facility:** This plan should be used if your refrigerator/freezer containing the vaccines will be connected to an emergency generator in the event of a power outage.

Once you have a written plan, post it where all staff can easily access the information in the event of an emergency (i.e. on your refrigerator/freezer unit containing vaccines).

Our VFC staff are here to help you. Please call 586-8300 or 1-800-933-4832 (Neighbor Islands) with any questions or if you need any assistance in complying with the CDC/VFC Program guidelines. ♦

UP & COMING ...

Please be on the lookout for VFC's biennial Provider Satisfaction Survey at the end of the quarter! Your participation in this survey is greatly appreciated.

Have you HIRd?

Have you heard that this is the last year that the Department of Health will be sending providers lists of their patients who have been vaccinated through the Stop Flu at School program?

It's true. To decrease the administrative burden and cost associated with distributing patient lists to providers and to encourage provider participation in the Hawaii Immunization Registry (HIR), beginning in 2012, only HIR-participating providers will be able to access their patients' records in HIR to determine if they received a flu vaccination at school.

Enroll now to become an HIR-participating provider. For more information about HIR or to request an HIR enrollment packet, e-mail registryhelp@doh.hawaii.gov or call 586-4665 (Oahu), 1-888-447-1023 (Neighbor Islands). Don't wait and miss the opportunity to use this important immunization resource! ♦

A Few Friendly Reminders

Recording lot numbers on VAVR forms:

Some providers are recording invalid lot numbers on the VAVR forms. Please do not record *NDC numbers*, *CPT codes*, or any other number that appears on the box or the vial. Record only the number that appears next to "**Lot and Exp. Date**". Also, it is not necessary to record the "*diluent lot*" for combination vaccines.

Returning Expired Vaccines:

The VFC Program only accepts the return of publicly purchased non-viable (expired or wasted) vaccines from providers. Please **DO NOT** include any 2009 H1N1 or private stock vaccines in your returns. Remember to include a list of the returned VFC vaccines inside the box and keep a copy for your records. Some providers are returning expired vaccines via Fedex. *Non-viable* vaccines do not need to be kept cold during transport. Please return *non-viable* VFC vaccines by utilizing the VFC business reply labels or by regular mail only. ♦

Talk to the Doc

Marcia Nagao, MD, MPH



Is it true that tetanus toxoid, reduced diphtheria toxoid, and acellular pertussis (Tdap) vaccine is now recommended for pregnant women?

Yes! The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) approved recommendations for the use of Tdap vaccine for pregnant women in June 2011.

Health care providers should administer Tdap during pregnancy, preferably during the third or late second trimester (after 20 weeks gestation) for pregnant women who have not previously received Tdap. If not administered during pregnancy, Tdap should be administered immediately postpartum. Also of note, a recent study found that pediatricians are a key source of information for pregnant women regarding Tdap vaccine.

Additionally, the ACIP updated Tdap vaccine recommendations for persons in contact with infants. Adolescents and adults who have or who anticipate having close contact with an infant aged less than 12 months (e.g., parents, siblings, grandparents, child-care providers, and **healthcare providers**) and who previously have not received Tdap should receive a single dose of Tdap, ideally at least 2 weeks before beginning close contact with the infant. ♦

CLARIFICATION ON VACCINE BORROWING

In clarification of the VFC program's new policy on two-directional borrowing, all ACIP-recommended vaccines are eligible for borrowing **EXCEPT** the seasonal influenza vaccine. This exception prohibits VFC providers from borrowing from their private stock flu vaccine to immunize VFC-eligible patients and vice versa.

As a reminder, for every borrowing occurrence of ACIP-recommended vaccines (excluding influenza vaccine), the vaccine borrowing form must be completed and faxed as soon as possible to the VFC program. Please keep a copy of all completed reports for a minimum of 3 years (these reports will be reviewed during the VFC site visits). VFC-enrolled providers are expected to maintain an adequate inventory of both VFC and private-stock vaccines, so that borrowing vaccines should only rarely occur. ♦

"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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