

"Hawaii VFC News" is a quarterly publication distributed to all participating Vaccines for Children (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.

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New, Improved and in Time for Spring...

For many of us, Spring means cleaning. This is the time to roll up our sleeves, clean up and reorganize. Not much fun, but very satisfying when done.

Here at the Immunization Branch we have been going through our own version of Spring Cleaning, getting organized and ready for new Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) requirements, new VFC policies and new technology. Here's a look at what's ahead:

By the end of August, all Hawaii VFC providers will be trained on ordering VFC vaccine through the Hawaii Immunization Registry (HIR). Once fully transitioned, providers will be able to submit their vaccine inventory and track orders online.

Be on the lookout for additional training and educational opportunities. Our staff will use conference calls, online modules and face to face trainings to make sure you have the most up- to-date information.



Additional and unannounced site visits from our VFC Field Reviewers will begin this year. These visits, though sometimes disruptive, are essential to ensure Hawaii VFC providers are managing their vaccine supply appropriately, documenting VFC eligibility properly, and meeting other VFC program requirements.

We appreciate your participation in the Hawaii VFC program and look forward to working with you.

Hawaii VFC Program to Begin UNANNOUNCED Site Visits

Beginning January 1, 2013, Hawaii State VFC Program staff is required, by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), to perform unannounced storage and handling visits to serve as "spot checks" for proper storage and handling practices.

The goal of the unannounced storage and handling visits are to provide guidance and education and to ensure all VFC-eligible children are receiving properly managed vaccines. VFC Providers will be prioritized and selected to receive an unannounced site visit based on the provider's previous history with storage and handling compliance issues, time since the last site visit, and geographic distance from those providers who will receive a VFC compliance visit during the year.

The unannounced site visit is identical to the biennial formal VFC Compliance Site Visit which examines the following:

- Appropriate vaccine handling, storage and ordering procedures;
- Proper documentation of children's VFC eligibility status;
- Compliance with documentation and record retention requirements; and
- Compliance with other program requirements. This includes not charging for the cost of the vaccine, not charging a vaccine administration fee that is higher than the maximum fee established by the state, and not denying vaccinations because of the parent's inability to pay a vaccine administration fee.

Have You HIR'd?

Gene Corpuz has recently joined the Hawaii Department of Health Immunization Branch as the Hawaii Immunization Registry (HIR) Vaccine Ordering Trainer. He will be conducting training sessions for Hawaii VFC providers statewide to transition them to report inventory and order VFC vaccines through HIR by September 2013.

Hawaii VFC providers will be contacted regarding HIR Vaccine Ordering Training for their staff. At least one staff person from each provider office will be required to participate in the training. Oahu training sessions will be conducted at the Department of Health located at 1250 Punchbowl Street, Honolulu. On-island training sessions will be arranged for Neighbor Island providers.

At the completion of the training, providers will be able to complete the following tasks in HIR:

1. Record current vaccine inventory;
2. Place vaccine orders;
3. Check the status VFC vaccine orders; and
4. Accept VFC vaccines into HIR inventory for vaccine tracking and accountability purposes.



For more information, please contact the Hawaii VFC program at 586-8300 (Oahu), 1-800-933-4832 (Neighbor Islands) or email eugenio.corpuz@doh.hawaii.gov

Meningococcal Meningitis Call

Join us for a conference call to hear how meningococcal meningitis affected one family and what you can do to promote vaccination in your practice.

Title: Meningococcal Meningitis: A Mother's Plea and a Provider's Role

Date: Thursday, May 23, 2013

Time: 12 noon – 1:00 pm

Presenter:

Frankie Milley, CEO and Founder of Meningitis Angels, a non-profit international network focusing on education and survivor communication.

For more information, email gail.a.ogawa@doh.hawaii.gov.



VFC Staff News



Justin Lam is the newest addition to the Vaccine Supply and Distribution Section. Justin is a Registered Nurse and has been with the Department of Health since 2011, his last position being a Registered Nurse in the Kalaupapa settlement on Molokai. He currently also serves on the Board of Directors for Waimanalo Community Health Center. Justin can be reached at (808)586-4585 or justin.lam@doh.hawaii.gov.

Talk to the Doc

Does the United States Pharmacopeia (USP) recommendation regarding discarding multi-dose vials of sterile pharmaceuticals within 28 days of opening apply to VACCINES in multi-dose vials?

No. According to the Joint Commission, vaccines are exempted from this requirement. The Joint Commission is applying this approach to all vaccines, provided that the vaccines are stored and handled appropriately. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) states that multi-dose vials that do not require reconstitution may be used until the expiration date printed on the vial or vaccine packaging if the vial has been stored correctly and the vaccine is not visibly contaminated, unless otherwise specified by the manufacturer. Multi-dose vials that require reconstitution must be used within the interval specified by the manufacturer (after reconstitution, the new expiration date should be written on the vial). Please note that all VFC vaccines currently supplied in multi-dose vials do not require reconstitution. Whenever possible, use all of the vaccine in one multi-dose vial before opening another vial in order to reduce vaccine waste.

If you have suggestions for future newsletter topics or if you would like to share relevant immunization information with other VFC providers through our newsletter, please contact Danielle Vassalotti at 586-8308 (Oahu), 1-800-933-4832 (Neighbor Islands) or e-mail danielle.vassalotti@doh.hawaii.gov.

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