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Hawaii VFC News

FALL ISSUE

A PUBLICATION OF THE HAWAII IMMUNIZATION BRANCH

"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. 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.

2012 STOP FLU AT SCHOOL VACCINATION CLINICS

The Department of Health has begun its 6th annual school-located influenza vaccination program which offers free flu vaccine to students in grades K-8. Clinics began on October 15th and will continue through December in over 330 participating public and private schools statewide. Both the flu shot and flu nasal spray are being offered.

During the 2011 Stop Flu at School clinics, nearly 70,000 students were vaccinated (approximately 45% of students in participating schools). Participation rates have remained consistently high since the program began in 2007 and the Department of Health expects similar numbers during this upcoming season. To view the statewide clinic schedule, please visit the Stop Flu at School (SFAS) website http://flu.hawaii.gov/SFAS_schedule.html.

All vaccines administered through the Stop Flu at School Program will be entered into the Hawaii Immunization Registry (HIR). As an HIR participant, you have the ability to look up your patients' flu vaccination as soon as they are inputted. If you are interested in participating in HIR, or would like to receive more information about the registry, please call (808) 586-4665 or visit <https://hir.doh.hawaii.gov/HIRPRD/portalHeader.do>.

NO Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Borrowing

All ACIP-recommended vaccines are eligible for borrowing ***EXCEPT*** the seasonal influenza vaccine. VFC providers are prohibited from borrowing from their private stock flu vaccine to immunize VFC-eligible patients and vice versa.

Introducing Hawaii VFC's Newest Staff Member ...



Noel Jose is the newest member of Vaccine Supply and Distribution Section, VFC Program. Noel was born and raised on Oahu, and has lived on the Leeward side for the majority of his life. Although Noel is a local boy, many people mistake him for a "mainlander", probably due to his lack of pidgin speak; but let your heart not be troubled because Noel is all about giving the "Aloha Spirit"! Noel received his Bachelors of Science in Nursing from the University of Hawaii at Manoa in 2009, and also attained an A.S. degree in liberal arts. Noel had previously worked in a hospital setting as a Registered Nurse before joining our team. Noel may be reached by phone at (808)-586-8318, or by email at noel.jose@doh.hawaii.gov

VFC VACCINE LOT NUMBERS

When completing Hawaii Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program Vaccine Administration Visit Records (VAVRs) and/or recording the administration of VFC vaccine in the Hawaii Immunization Registry, providers should:

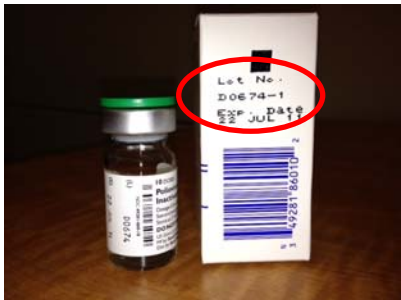
- Record the lot number printed on the vaccine's outer carton in its entirety.
- Please **DO NOT** record any of the other lot numbers printed on the vaccine components (including diluent) on the VAVR.

Why is this important?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Hawaii VFC Program track vaccine distribution by the lot numbers printed on the outer cartons of vaccines. Please be aware that the lot numbers printed on the vaccine components (vials, diluent, etc.) can differ from the lot numbers printed on the outer cartons. If your office records the administration of a lot number other than the number printed on the outer carton on VFC VAVR forms, it could appear as if you are not appropriately administering VFC vaccine to VFC-eligible children. It is important to ensure that your VFC vaccine administration documentation clearly indicates that the VFC vaccine you receive is properly accounted for.

The Hawaii VFC program recommends that providers store the vaccine components in the original packaging so the vaccines will be protected from exposure to light and providers will have access to the lot number printed on the vaccine's outer carton. If storage in the outer carton is impractical (e.g. the Rotarix[®] outer carton is quite large) and/or has the potential to adversely affect refrigerator air circulation, providers may remove the vaccine components from the outer carton for storage purposes but must record the lot number that is printed on the outer carton on the VFC Vaccine Administration Visit Records and/or in the Hawaii Immunization Registry.

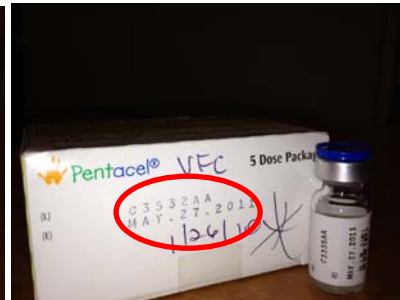
Here are some examples of how the lot number printed on the outer carton can differ from the number printed on vials or other vaccine components (red oval indicates the lot that should be recorded on the VAVR):



IPV lot numbers (outer carton lot includes hyphen and additional digit).



Menveo[®] lot numbers (outer carton lot begins with "M," vials begin with "A" and "X").



Pentacel[®] lot numbers (outer carton lot does not match lot on DTaP-IPV component).



Rotarix[®] lot numbers (fourth character differs on the outer carton, vial, and oral applicator).

REMINDER: VFC VACCINE RETURNS

Vaccines for Children (VFC) providers 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 VFC vaccines. 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.

***Important Note:** Expired VFC vaccines must be returned to the VFC program within 6 months after the expiration date.

Talk to the Doc

Which of my pediatric patients, aged 6 months through 8 years, require 2 doses of influenza vaccine this season?

There are two approaches, both of which are acceptable, for determining how many doses of influenza vaccine to administer to children aged 6 months through 8 years for the 2012-13 influenza season:

- 1) First approach: Consider only doses of seasonal influenza vaccine received since July 1, 2010:
 - a. Children aged 6 months through 8 years who received a total of 2 or more doses of seasonal influenza vaccine since July 1, 2010: Administer 1 dose during the 2012-13 flu season
 - b. Children aged 6 months through 8 years who did not receive a total of 2 or more doses of seasonal influenza vaccine since July 1, 2010: Administer 2 doses during the 2012-13 flu season.
- 2) Second approach: If adequate vaccination history from before the 2010-11 season is available:
 - a. If a child aged 6 months through 8 years received at least 2 seasonal influenza vaccines during any previous season and at least 1 dose of a 2009 (H1N1)-containing vaccine (i.e., either 2010-11 or 2011-12 seasonal vaccine or the monovalent 2009[H1N1] vaccine), the child needs only 1 dose for the 2012-13 flu season:
 - b. Using this approach, children aged 6 months through 8 years need only 1 dose of influenza vaccine in 2012-13 if they have received any of the following:
 - i. 2 or more doses of seasonal influenza vaccine since July 1, 2010; or
 - ii. 2 or more doses of seasonal influenza vaccine before July 1, 2010, and 1 or more doses of monovalent 2009(H1N1) vaccine; or
 - iii. 1 or more doses of seasonal influenza vaccine before July 1, 2010, and 1 or more doses of seasonal influenza vaccine since July 1, 2010.

Vaccine Packing Slip Changes

VFC's vaccine distributor has made a minor change to the McKesson Packing Slip included in all VFC vaccine shipments. You will notice the field that previously read "**Ship Date**" has now been changed to read "**Quality Check Date.**" The date shown on the packing slip is not the actual ship date; it is the date the order was checked for accuracy prior to being packed. The slip may be printed and verified a few days prior to the vaccine physically being shipped. Therefore, this change should help to alleviate provider questions and concerns over discrepancies between the date on the packing list and the date the vaccine is actually delivered. In order to obtain the actual shipping date, please refer to the shipping label on the outside of the box.

Ronald G. Balajadia, MS
Immunization Branch Chief

Mardelle Gustilo, MPH, CHES
Editor & Contributor

THE HAWAII IMMUNIZATION BRANCH / VFC PROGRAM
1250 Punchbowl Street, 4th Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Telephone: (808) 586-8300 / Fax: (808) 586-8302
Toll Free # for Neighbor Islands: 1-800-933-4832

Contributors:

Danielle Vassalotti
Public Health Educator

Heather Winfield-Smith, MSW
Epidemiological Specialist

Marcia Nagao, MD, MPH
Pediatrician
