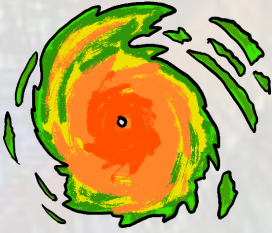


HAWAII VFC NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH'S IMMUNIZATION BRANCH

“Hawaii VFC News” is a quarterly publication distributed to all participating Vaccine 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.

Emergency Vaccine Procedures and Transport



It's that time of the year again! Hawaii's hurricane season occurs from June 1st - November 30th. It is important for immunization providers to maintain up-to-date Vaccine Emergency Management Plans to ensure that they are prepared in the event of any occurrence that could jeopardize vaccine storage, including equipment failures, power outages, severe weather conditions, or natural disasters. Here are some things to consider when developing and/or reviewing your Vaccine Emergency Management Plan:

◆ Backup Equipment

- Ensure that all staff know where back-up equipment is located:
 - ⇒ **Certified, calibrated, back-up temperature monitoring device (temperature data logger)** - if you need to transport vaccines off-site, you will need to monitor the temperatures in your transport cooler.
 - ⇒ **Flashlight and spare batteries** (in case of a power outage)
 - ⇒ **Vaccine transport supplies:** coolers, frozen water bottles, and buffer materials (e.g., bubble wrap, cardboard, etc.).
- **Review your Emergency Plan** to ensure that all staff know how to use your back-up equipment and are familiar with packing vaccines in an emergency. Run through your procedures, practice packing vaccines (you can use expired vaccines as a stand-in), and monitor your “practice” vaccine cooler temperature to ensure that you would be able to maintain appropriate vaccine storage temperatures during an emergency.

◆ Generators and Backup Battery Power Sources

- **Generators:** Ensure that you have sufficient fuel on hand to continuously operate the generator for at least 72 hours.
- **Backup Battery:** Check the manufacturer’s guidance for quarterly testing procedures and maintenance schedules.
- Ensure staff know where backup power sources are located and know how to operate them.

◆ Alternative Vaccine Storage Facility

- Even if you have backup equipment or a generator, it is recommended that you establish a working agreement with at least one alternative storage facility with a backup generator where vaccines can be appropriately stored and monitored during an emergency. Hospitals, long-term care facilities, the commercial pharmacies/pharmaceutical distributors are some of the facilities that may be able to assist you.

◆ Accessing Your Building After Hours

- Should an emergency occur after business hours, ensure that your facility’s building manager and/or security staff are aware that vaccines stored on site may need to be accessed and moved to another facility.
- Keep information on after-hours building access and security procedures (including alarm codes, if necessary) with your Emergency Plans and ensure that staff members have copies of this information available at home.

NOTE: If vaccines must be temporarily stored and/or transferred off-site, it is your responsibility to ensure that vaccines are maintained at appropriate temperatures throughout the temporary storage and/or transit period. Never store or transport vaccines without the appropriate coolers and packing materials (refrigerants, buffer materials, etc.). For step-by-step guides, view the following resources:

- ◆ CDC “Packing Vaccines for Transport During Emergencies”: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/storage/downloads/emergency-transport.pdf>

- ◆ American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Immunization Resources, Storage and Handling Series, “Safe Vaccine Transport”: https://www.aap.org/en-us/Documents/immunizations_vaccine_transport.pdf

For more information on Emergency Vaccine Storage, Handling and Transport Preparations, view the CDC Vaccine Storage and Handling Toolkit at: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/admin/storage/toolkit/storage-handling-toolkit.pdf> as well as Section 3 (“Vaccine Management”) of your hard-copy VFC Provider Reference Toolkit.

Stop Flu at School (SFAS) Update



For the 2020–21 influenza season, Stop Flu at School influenza vaccination clinics will be offered to all elementary and intermediate public schools in Kauai, Maui, and Hawaii Counties. The program will also be available to a *selected number* of eligible public schools on Oahu. Oahu eligibility criteria include public schools which in previous years had at least 40 percent of their student enrollment participating in the Department of Education’s Free and Reduced-Price Meal Program. All neighbor island public schools are eligible to participate in SFAS as access to healthcare in those counties can often be a challenge. Because of limited funding and resource constraints, SFAS is no longer offered to private schools. Clinics will be held from October – November 2020. Because of purchasing restrictions, only flu shots will be offered through the SFAS program this year.

Parents/guardians of school-aged children, especially children that have health conditions that place them at higher risk for serious complications due to influenza illness, may contact their child’s healthcare provider about receiving the flu vaccine in their office. Most health insurance plans cover the cost of recommended vaccines. Parents are encouraged to check with their insurance provider for details of coverage.



To access the 2020 SFAS Clinic Schedule, please see: https://health.hawaii.gov/docd/files/2019/07/Stop-Flu-at-School-2020-Clinic-Schedule_rev-6.15.2020.pdf

Immunization Quality Improvement For Providers (IQIP)

The VFC IQIP program site visits at provider practices were postponed due to the COVID 19 response efforts but will resume in July 2020.



The IQIP program is a 12-month process where VFC providers, their staff and an IQIP consultant collaborate to identify strategies to increase vaccine uptake by improving and/or enhancing existing immunization workflows at provider practices.

As social distancing requirements are relaxed, children who are not protected by vaccines will be more vulnerable to vaccine preventable diseases such as measles. Resuming timely vaccination delivery services and catching-up patients with their vaccinations will be crucial for preventing outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases.

For more information on the IQIP program steps go to the following link: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/iqip/at-a-glance.html> or contact Alicia Diem, Hawaii VFC IQIP Consultant via email (alicia.diem@doh.hawaii.gov) or phone at (808) 587-6565.

Ask the Doc

Question: Our office purchases both Tdap and Td vaccines. We’ve heard that CDC recently updated the Tdap recommendations. Do we still need to stock both vaccines, or can we just keep Tdap on hand?



Answer: You may stock only Tdap, if that is your preference.

In January 2020, the ACIP updated recommendations on the use of Tdap for adolescents and adults. The ACIP now recommends **either Tdap or Td** for use in situations when previously only Td was recommended:

- Every 10-year Td booster
- Tetanus prophylaxis for wound management
- Additional required doses in the catch-up immunization schedule if a person has received at least 1 Tdap dose

This recommendation was updated because of the reassuring safety profile and evidence of widespread use of Tdap in place of Td, to allow providers more flexibility.

Additional CDC Guidance: The preferred age for administration of the adolescent Tdap dose is 11 – 12 years. However, if Tdap is administered at age 10 years, the dose may count as the adolescent Tdap dose.

To review the updated ACIP recommendations visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/pdfs/mm6903a5-H.pdf>

HELP BOX

VFC Friendly Reminder:

Vaccine order forms should be filled out completely and legible for staff to read. Contact us should you need a supplemental form for additional inventory space. Also, please remember to send in monthly temperature logs even if vaccines are not being ordered. If your office hours have changed, contact us immediately so we may update your org in our system.



Please contact us as soon as possible if your office address or phone number changes.

Dates of Current Vaccine Information Statements (VISs) as of April 1, 2020

Check your supply of VISs against this list. If you have outdated VISs, get current versions at www.immunize.org/vis.

Adenovirus	1/8/20	MMRV	8/15/19
Anthrax	1/8/20	Multi-vaccine	4/1/20
Cholera	10/30/19	PCV13	10/30/19
DTaP	4/1/20	PPSV23	10/30/19
Hepatitis A	7/20/16	Polio	10/30/19
Hepatitis B	8/15/19	Rabies	1/8/20
Hib	10/30/19	Rotavirus	10/30/19
HPV	10/30/19	Td	4/1/20
Influenza	8/15/19	Tdap	4/1/20
Japanese enceph	8/15/19	Typhoid	10/30/19
MenACWY	8/15/19	Varicella	8/15/19
MenB	8/15/19	Yellow fever	4/1/20
MMR	8/15/19	Zoster	10/30/19

Immunization Action Coalition www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2029.pdf • Item #P2029 (4/20)

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