

Public Health

Seattle & King County

Immunization Program
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Return Service Requested

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2009 Childhood Immunization Schedule Now Available

The recommended immunization schedules for persons aged 0 through 18 years and the catch-up immunization schedule for 2009 have been approved by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP). Here are changes:

- **Rotavirus** vaccine recommendations have changed for maximum age for the first dose (14 weeks 6 days) and the maximum age for any dose (8 months 0 days). The rotavirus footnote also indicates that if RV1 (Rotarix®) is administered at ages 2 and 4 months, a dose at 6 months is not indicated.
- Routine annual **influenza** vaccination is recommended for all children aged 6 months through 18 years. Children younger than 9 years who are receiving influenza vaccine for the first time or who were vaccinated for the first time during the previous season but only received 1 dose, should receive 2 doses of influenza vaccine at least 4 weeks apart. Healthy nonpregnant persons aged 2 through 49 years may receive either live attenuated influenza vaccine or inactivated influenza vaccine.
- The minimum interval between tetanus and diphtheria toxoids (Td) and **tetanus and diphtheria toxoids and acellular pertussis vaccine (Tdap)** for persons aged 10 through 18 years is addressed. An interval less than 5 years may be used if pertussis immunity is needed.
- Information about the use of *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) conjugate vaccine among persons aged 5 years and older at increased risk for invasive Hib dis-

ease has been added. Use of Hib vaccine for these persons is not contraindicated.

- Catch-up vaccination with **human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine** is clarified. Routine dosing intervals should be used for series catch-up (i.e., the second and third doses should be administered 2 and 6 months after the first dose). The third dose should be given at least 24 weeks after the first dose.
- Abbreviations for rotavirus, pneumococcal polysaccharide and meningococcal polysaccharide vaccines have been changed.

Laminated cards of the childhood schedule will be available in March. To print a schedule, go to www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/schedules/child-schedule.htm.

New Parent Education Resources

Many new materials are available to help immunization providers educate parents about vaccines.

"The Vaccine Education Center (VEC) of the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia has developed a new tear sheet, **"Q&A: Too many vaccines? What you should know."** This sheet explains why receiving all recommended vaccines on schedule will not overwhelm a child's immune system. English- and Spanish-language versions are available. Healthcare professionals can order two 50-sheet pads in each language at no charge. Additional pads are available for \$3, plus shipping.

To access the English version of the tear sheet, go to: www.chop.edu/vaccine/images/vec_tomany.pdf.

To access the Spanish version of the tear sheet, go to: www.chop.edu/vaccine/images/vec_tomany_esp.pdf.

The AAP recently developed two Q&A sheets that answer questions parents frequently ask at pediatric appointments. The two are **"The Childhood Immunization Schedule: Why Is It Like That?"** and **"Questions and Answers about Vaccine Ingredients"**. Both are posted on the website of AAP's Childhood Immunization Support Program (CISP).

To access "The Childhood Immunization Schedule: Why Is It Like That?" go to: www.cispimmunize.org/pro/pdf/Vaccineschedule.pdf

To access "Questions and Answers about Vaccine Ingredients," go to: www.cispimmunize.org/pro/pdf/Vaccineingredients.pdf

Give HPV Vaccine Now!

If approved, Governor Gregoire's *proposed* 2009-2011 budget will eliminate state funding for HPV vaccine for *non-VFC eligible children* (children with insurance) as of July 1, 2009. **Please use every opportunity to identify girls ages 9 through 18 years in your practice who are eligible to receive HPV vaccine while it is still universally available.** Patients covered by private insurance who are unable to complete the series before July 1st may incur out-of-pocket expense for the cost of the vaccine.



Vaccines For Children

Program News and Alerts

Receiving Shipments

Each time a vaccine shipment is delivered, please open the package immediately. This is important because, in addition to assuring that the vaccine has arrived in good condition, you must notify the VFC Program right away whenever the contents do not agree with the packing slip. McKesson Specialty, our distribution partner, will not take responsibility for discrepancies reported days or weeks after the shipment is accepted, including missing products. Checking the package can also prevent you from accepting shipments intended for other clinics: the VFC Program does not have the means to redistribute misdelivered packages and that chore will fall to the clinic that accepted the wrong package. Remember--your signature means you are responsible!

Status Screening

We are receiving many questions regarding the new status screening requirement. Basic points to keep in mind: (1) you are not expected to verify the accuracy of statements made by parents regarding their children's insurance status (particularly the under-insured), but simply to document that you asked; (2) document the information in such a way that, during a site visit, you can show VFC staff that the questions were asked *at each immunization visit*; (3) documenting VFC status in the patient chart is all that is required--you do not need to report this information each month (monthly reporting requirements remain the same); and (4) for the majority of patients, the fee cap of \$15.60 per dose will remain in effect, however those whose insurance will cover immunizations may be charged as much as the insurance carrier will pay. Your chosen method for status screening must be in place by the time your 2009 Provider Agreement is signed. Detailed information on status screening, and optional forms, are available at the Washington State Department of Health's Web site: www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/Immunize/vaccine/vaccine-supply.htm#Current_Updates.

2009 Provider Agreements

Each provider office currently enrolled in the VFC Program will soon receive the 2009 Provider Agreement for Receipt of State-Supplied Vaccine. The agreement should be reviewed carefully--correct any errors and update contact information--and signed by the lead practitioner in each clinic/office location (MD/ND, NP), but all clinic staff who authorize immunizations should receive a copy. Please read the entire section beginning, "On behalf of myself and all the practitioners associated with this medical office..." Much has been changed or clarified regarding expectations, vaccine storage requirements, and accountability. In particular, the agreement now specifically requires compliance with the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations for vaccine administration, as described in the most current Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) "General Recommendations on Immunization" (see www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/ACIP-list.htm). Finally, every provider office is being asked to complete a new certification form for the receipt and storage of frozen vaccines.

Vaccine Champions

This month's "3 Cheers" Award goes to the Swedish Physicians group, composed of 11 neighborhood clinics. Each clinic in the Swedish system recently upgraded to new, state-of-the-art lab-quality refrigerators and under-the-counter stand-alone freezers. Each unit features digital thermometers (readable from the outside) and the appliances have already impressed clinic staff with rock-steady temperature stability. Although initially a significant expense, we think the investment will pay off in terms of improved vaccine storage and greatly reduced vaccine losses. The VFC Program recognizes that this is an expense not everyone can afford, but we felt that Swedish Physicians' concerted effort deserved recognition!

Referring Patients to Public Health Immunization Clinics

Due to the 2009 King County budget deficit, Public Health has significantly reduced immunization locations and services. Effective 1/5/09, general immunizations are provided *by appointment* at four part-time sites at Downtown, Columbia, Federal Way, and Renton Public Health Centers. Appointments can be made for any of these sites by calling 206-205-1681.

Schedules for these clinics are available online at: www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/locations/immunization.aspx. Travel immunizations are available at *Downtown Public Health only*.

Whenever possible, adults and children who have a primary care provider are encouraged to receive vaccines through that provider.

Please note that our Public Health clinics do not carry shingles (zoster) vaccine or HPV vaccine for adults.

Training Reminder—Immunization Update: Emerging Issues and New Directions

This full-day conference is designed for members of the primary-care team including practicing physicians, physician assistants and nurse practitioners in the areas of family, general, internal, and pediatric medicine, and other practitioners involved in immunization.

The conference will be held on **Friday, April 17, 2009** at **Glaser Auditorium, Swedish Medical Center First Hill Campus** at 747 Broadway in Seattle. Video conferencing connections are available via Northwest Tele-Health. Contact your local site coordinator for details.

For more information about the conference, please visit www.swedish.org/cme, send e-mail to: cme.registration@swedish.org, or call 206-386-2755.

This conference is sponsored by Swedish Medical Center, in collaboration with the Immunization Action Coalition of Washington and the Washington State Department of Health.

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