

## Public Health

Seattle & King County

Immunization Program  
401 5th Ave, Suite 900  
Seattle, WA 98104

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### Changes are coming to the Vaccines For Children (VFC) Program on July 1, 2009

Washington's VFC Program will provide human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine only to VFC eligible girls beginning July 1, 2009. For details on changes, see the Vaccines For Children News on page 2.

Washington's Department of Health (DOH) Immunization Program Child Profile has created a new web-page focusing on the changes in the childhood vaccine program, now available at [www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/immunize/providers/universal.htm](http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/immunize/providers/universal.htm).

### Vaccine Refusal, Mandatory Immunization, and Risk of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases

A study published in the May 7, 2009 *New England Journal of Medicine* by Omer B Saad, et al, describes "Vaccine Refusal, Mandatory Immunization, and the Risks of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases". The abstract follows below:

Vaccines are among the most effective prevention tools available to clinicians. However, the success of an immunization program depends on high rates of acceptance and coverage. There is evidence of an increase in vaccine refusal in the United States and of geographic clustering of refusals that results in outbreaks. Children with exemptions from school immunization requirements (a measure of vaccine refusal) are at increased risk for measles and pertussis and can infect others who are too young to be vaccinated, cannot be vaccinated for medical reasons, or were vaccinated but did not have a sufficient immunologic response.

Clinicians can play a crucial role in parental decision making. Health care providers are cited as the most frequent source of immunization information by parents, including parents of unvaccinated children. Although some clinicians have discontinued or have considered discontinuing their provider relationship with patients who refuse vac-

cines, the American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Bioethics advises against this and recommends that clinicians address vaccine refusal by respectfully listening to parental concerns and discussing the risks of nonvaccination. You can read the entire article at <http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/full/360/19/1981>.

### New Resource on Aluminum in Vaccines

The Vaccine Education Center (VEC) at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia recently developed a new education sheet, "Aluminum in Vaccines: What you should know." Intended for patients, parents, and providers, this resource sheet answers the most frequently asked questions about the use and safety of aluminum in vaccines. English- and Spanish-language versions are available.

To access a free ready-to-copy (PDF) version, and to view all of VEC's quality education materials, go to <https://www.chop.edu/consumer/jsp/division/generic.jsp?id=81901>. Health professionals can order two 50-sheet pads in each language at no charge. Additional pads are available for \$3, plus shipping. You can order by completing the online form at <https://www.chop.edu/vaccine/vec/profOrder.cfm#form>, sending an email to [vaccines@email.chop.edu](mailto:vaccines@email.chop.edu), or calling (215) 590-9990.

### VIS for Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Vaccine now available in Spanish

The current version (dated 4/16/09) of the Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) for pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPSV) is now available in Spanish on the Immunization Action Coalition (IAC) website. IAC gratefully acknowledges Iowa Health Des Moines, Des Moines, IA, for the translation.

To obtain the VIS for PPSV vaccine in Spanish, go to [www.immunize.org/vis/sppne97.pdf](http://www.immunize.org/vis/sppne97.pdf). To obtain the VIS for PPSV vaccine in English, go to [www.immunize.org/vis/pneum3.pdf](http://www.immunize.org/vis/pneum3.pdf). For information about the use of VISs, and for VISs in more than 35 languages, visit IAC's VIS web section at [www.immunize.org/vis](http://www.immunize.org/vis).

### New and Improved "After the shots..... What to do if your child has discomfort"

The Immunization Action Coalition (IAC) has updated the parent information flyer, "After the shots...What to do if your child has discomfort." The flyer includes medicines and dosages for reducing pain and fever and features a new look. To access this revised resource, go to [www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4015.pdf](http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4015.pdf).

IAC's Print Materials web section offers healthcare professionals and the public approximately 250 FREE English-language materials (many also available in translation), which we encourage website users to print out, copy, and distribute widely. All of IAC's free print materials are available at [www.immunize.org/printmaterials](http://www.immunize.org/printmaterials).



# Vaccines For Children

## Program News and Alerts

### IMPORTANT CHANGE IN AVAILABILITY OF HPV VACCINE

As announced previously, the Washington State Legislature and Governor Gregoire have reduced Washington State's contribution to the funds used to purchase vaccine for the VFC Program, effective July 1, 2009. The first step in this transition is the end of state funding for HPV vaccine. However, the majority of the VFC Program is supported by Federal funding and will remain unchanged. **It is state funding only that is being reduced.**

#### **Who is ELIBLE for VFC-supplied HPV vaccine beginning July 1, 2009?**

- Teens (1) with no insurance, (2) insurance plans that do not cover this vaccine, (3) Medicaid-enrolled, and (4) Native American/Alaska Natives.
- Unaccompanied minors seeking family planning services or who are patients in school-based clinics
- All DSHS/Molina-enrolled teens. Previously, we stated that teens covered by SCHIP and Basic Health Plan would be ineligible; however, the state Department of Health (DOH) recently received clarification from the Budget Office allowing these teens to receive VFC-supplied HPV vaccine.

#### **Who is NO LONGER ELIGIBLE for VFC-supplied HPV vaccine beginning July 1, 2009?**

- Teens whose families have an insurance plan that will pay for HPV vaccine..
- Teens with insurance coverage even if they have not completed the 3-dose series.
- Please note this **change in eligibility applies to all doses** of VFC-supplied HPV vaccine, including doses received by providers before July 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Once a patient turns 19 years of age, she is no longer eligible for the VFC Program, regardless of whether or not the 3-dose HPV series is complete; switch to purchased vaccine.

Insured patients/families must meet their deductible before being considered under-insured. Some insurance plans limit the amount they will pay toward the cost of immunizations. Insured families with this type of plan become under-insured after the specific limit has been reached. Important note: Providers are not expected to verify statements made by teens or their parents/guardians with regard to insurance status.

Each VFC-enrolled provider will receive notification indicating the allocated amount of HPV vaccine they are expected to need to vaccinate VFC-eligible teens. Public Health will adhere to these allocations, which were determined by DOH based on the Provider Composition Surveys completed in December 2008. The expected increase in summer vaccinations has been factored into these allocations.

Until further notice, all vaccines *other than HPV* remain available to all children and teens, before and after July 1<sup>st</sup>. Begin planning now! By May 2010, children with insurance coverage for vaccinations will be **INELIGIBLE** for all vaccines distributed through the VFC Program. Watch for broadcast faxes/emails with guidance for vaccine purchasing. Contact the VFC Program at (206) 296-4774 if you are not receiving these broadcast messages.

### Did you know...

#### ...about correcting dose errors?

- In general, if you give less than a full age-appropriate dose of any vaccine, the dose is invalid. Revaccinate the person with the correct dose as soon as feasible.
- For inactivated vaccines, give the correct dose anytime after the error is discovered.
- For a live virus vaccine, either give the correct dose the same day, or wait 28 days between the doses.
- There are two exceptions: (1) If a patient sneezes after receiving nasal-spray live attenuated influenza vaccine, count the dose as valid. (2) If an infant regurgitates, spits, or vomits during or after receiving oral rotavirus vaccine, count the dose as valid.
- If you give more than an age-appropriate dose, count the dose as valid and notify the patient/parent about the error. Giving a too-large dose can be hazardous because of excessive local or systemic concentrations of antigens or other vaccine constituents.

*We thank the Immunization Action Coalition for allowing us to adapt this information from [www.immunize.org/express/issue800.asp](http://www.immunize.org/express/issue800.asp) on 6/12/09.*

### TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

CDC's **Annual Immunization Update** webcast will be shown twice on **July 30**, live from **6:00 - 8:30 AM PDT and rebroadcast from 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon PDT**. This 2.5-hour webcast will provide up-to-date information on the rapidly changing field of immunization.

Anticipated topics include influenza (including H1N1 influenza), rotavirus, vaccine safety and vaccine supply. So-called "alternative" vaccine schedules and other emerging vaccine issues will also be discussed.

Both broadcasts on July 30 will feature a live question-and-answer session in which participants nationwide can interact with the course instructors via toll-free telephone lines. To view the webcast live, log on to <http://www2a.cdc.gov/phnt/immupdate2009/default.asp>.

The webcast will be available as an archived webcast after July 30. Public Health has arranged viewing of the archived webcast on August 6 from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Chinook Building, 401 5th Avenue, in Seattle. Registration information will be sent to all *VacScene* subscribers in late June.

### ERRATA: CDC Adult Immunization Update

The May *VacScene* announced the live webcast of CDC's Adult Immunization Update on July 31. Since the May issue went to press, CDC has revised their calendar of immunization webcasts. The Adult Immunization session will be released on December 10 *as a self-study module*, not a webcast. We apologize for any confusion or inconvenience due to this change in the webcast schedule.

Public Health—Seattle & King County  
Communicable Disease Epidemiology  
& Immunization Section

401 Fifth Avenue, Suite 900, Seattle WA 98104  
[www.kingcounty.gov/health/immunization](http://www.kingcounty.gov/health/immunization)

(206)296-4774 Fax (206) 296-4803 TTY Relay: 711

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#### Publication Staff

Betsy Hubbard, Editor

Email: [Betsy.Hubbard@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Betsy.Hubbard@kingcounty.gov)  
Contributors: Lauren Greenfield, Carey Melmed, Darren Robertson, and Yolanda Stetson

Available in alternate formats