

## Public Health

Seattle & King County

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*Return Service Requested*

### In this issue:

- H1N1 Influenza Vaccine—Frequently Asked Questions
- Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Information Online
- Important Reminder!
- VFC News
- Did you know... About the PREP Act?
- Training Opportunities

### H1N1 Influenza Vaccine— Frequently Asked Questions

#### **Q: Is the 2009 H1N1 vaccine recommended for patients who had influenza-like illness (ILI) since spring 2009?**

**A:** Yes, all people in a recommended vaccination target group who did not have 2009 H1N1 virus infection confirmed by real-time reverse transcriptase-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) test should be vaccinated with the 2009 H1N1 vaccine. RT-PCR is the only test that can confirm infection specifically with the 2009 H1N1 virus. Most people ill with a flu-like illness since this spring have not been tested with RT-PCR. **Tests such as rapid antigen detection assays and diagnoses based on symptoms alone without RT-PCR testing cannot specifically determine if a person has 2009 H1N1 flu.** Persons who were not tested, but who became ill after being exposed to a person with lab-confirmed 2009 H1N1 flu, should not assume that they also had 2009 H1N1 as many pathogens can cause a flu-like illness. These people should get the vaccine if they are in a recommended vaccination target group.

A patient who had 2009 H1N1 infection diagnosed by RT-PCR may also want to get vaccinated. If the person is not severely immune compromised, he or she will likely have some immunity to subsequent infection with 2009 H1N1 virus. But, vaccination of a person with some existing immunity to the 2009 H1N1 virus is not harmful. Additionally, people with RT-PCR confirmed H1N1 infection should get a seasonal influenza vaccine, because infection with the 2009 H1N1 virus does not provide immunity against seasonal influenza viruses.

#### **Q: Can seasonal influenza vaccine and 2009 H1N1 vaccine be given at the same visit?**

**A:** Providers can administer seasonal and 2009 H1N1 *inactivated* vaccines, seasonal *inactivated* vaccine and

2009 H1N1 *LAIV*, or seasonal *LAIV* and *inactivated* 2009 H1N1 at the same visit, or at any time before or after each other. Live attenuated vaccines (seasonal and 2009 H1N1) should be given 28 days apart.

**Q: In the vaccine package inserts, the recommended age for two doses is different for seasonal (6 months through 8 years) and 2009 H1N1 monovalent vaccine (6 months through 9 years). Does CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) recommend that clinicians follow the recommendation in the package inserts?**

**A:** CDC recommends that clinicians follow the guidance in the manufacturer package inserts. This means clinicians should administer two doses of 2009 H1N1 monovalent vaccine to children 6 months through 9 years of age. Persons 10 years and older should receive one dose. CDC recommends using the same formulation for both doses. However, rather than miss an opportunity to vaccinate, clinicians may administer the second dose as LAIV if the first dose was inactivated, and vice versa.

### New age range for CSL 2009 H1N1 vaccine

The FDA (Federal Food & Drug Administration) recently revised licensure for CSL's H1N1 formulation to include use in children age 6 months and older, instead of its original age limit of 18 years and older. Now both Sanofi Pasteur and CSL vaccines can be used beginning at age 6 months, through adulthood.

### Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Information Online

The CDC posts the latest seasonal influenza vaccine information on their website:

[www.cdc.gov/flu/flu\\_vaccine\\_updates.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/flu_vaccine_updates.htm)

To assist providers in finding seasonal influenza vaccine available for purchase, the National Influenza Vaccine Summit supports IVATS (Influenza Vaccine Availability Tracking System). IVATS provides information about vaccine manufacturers and distributors with vaccine available for purchase. To access this information in Excel spreadsheet format, go to:

[www.preventinfluenza.org/ivats/ivats\\_09\\_10.xls](http://www.preventinfluenza.org/ivats/ivats_09_10.xls)

For seasonal influenza educational print materials visit: [www.immunize.org/printmaterials/dis\\_inf.asp](http://www.immunize.org/printmaterials/dis_inf.asp).

### IMPORTANT REMINDER!

#### Report Adverse Events After Any Vaccination Through the Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System (VAERS) at <http://vaers.hhs.gov>

VAERS provides a nationwide mechanism by which adverse events following immunization may be reported, analyzed, and made available to the public. VAERS relies on passive reporting from medical providers and the public. Anyone can submit a report to VAERS online, by mail, or via fax. Visit the VAERS website for more information.



# Vaccines For Children

## Program News and Alerts

### DECEMBER ORDERING AND SHIPPING SCHEDULE

- **December 1 – 16:** Normal order processing and deliveries.
- **December 17 – January 3:** No orders will be processed. Vaccine requests can be submitted to Public Health, however, they cannot be processed for shipment except in cases of real emergency.
- **January 4, 2010:** Normal order processing and deliveries resume.

### HERE COMES THE RAIN (AND WIND) AGAIN

Now is an excellent time to review your clinic's power outage plan. Renew or set up an agreement with a location for off-site vaccine storage, check thermometers, coolers, cold packs/ice packs, etc. Guidance for setting up an emergency storage plan can be found in the Provider Manual, pages 27-32, at [www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/communicable/immunization/vfc.aspx#providers](http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/communicable/immunization/vfc.aspx#providers) (scroll to the bottom of the page).

### NEW VACCINE – HIBERIX

The Childhood Vaccine Program now offers GSK's (Glaxo SmithKline) Hiberix™, to help get kids caught up on the Hib vaccine series. Please remember that **Hiberix is licensed for the 4<sup>th</sup> dose only.** See Broadcast Fax #14 (page 2) or visit [www.hiberix.com](http://www.hiberix.com) for more information.

Follow the link listed above to print a copy of the current State Supplied Vaccine Request Form, redesigned for specific ordering of Pentacel, ActHIB and Hiberix. The form was also included in Broadcast Fax #14 (November 10, 2009).

### SEASONAL INFLUENZA VACCINE

Please note expanded usage guidelines for state supplied FluMist and Fluvirin (in bold).

- FluMist (0.2 mL): **2 through 18 years** of age.
- Provider offices with Fluvirin PF in stock may now use it for **any child 4 years of age up to the 19<sup>th</sup> birthday** (all available doses have been distributed).

Contact the VFC Program at [darren.robertson@kingcounty.gov](mailto:darren.robertson@kingcounty.gov) or (206) 296-4774 (1) to request another installment of your order, or (2) to "release" any remaining vaccine (make it available to others).

### FAXING TO THE VACCINE DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM

- Childhood Vaccine Program (requests for regular childhood vaccine, monthly reports, temperature logs, vaccine returns): (206) 205-5780.
- H1N1 Influenza Vaccine (new vaccine requests, paper reports): (206) 296-1173.

## Did you know...

### ... about the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness (PREP) Act?

- The Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act or PREP Act is a federal law that authorizes the Secretary of Health and Human Services to issue a declaration to provide tort liability immunity (except for willful misconduct) to individuals and organizations involved in the development, manufacture, distribution, administration and use of countermeasures against pandemics, epidemics and diseases and health threats caused by chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear agents of terrorism.
- On June 15, 2009, Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius extended the PREP Act declaration for pandemic vaccines to H1N1 vaccines.
- The declaration provides legal liability protections for individuals or entities that are involved in the distribution and administration of H1N1 vaccine.

### Training Opportunities:

#### HPV Update Net Conference

The National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD) Net Conference on November 12th covered new recommendations and post-marketing safety surveillance for human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine. A replay of this conference is available online. For additional information, go to [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/ed/ciinc](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/ed/ciinc).

#### Physician Toolkit for Adolescent Immunization

Updated in 2009, "Be Wise--Immunize: Physician Toolkit for Adolescents" is a comprehensive reference guide on adolescent vaccinations for physicians and their staff. Published by the Texas Medical Association and Texas Medical Association Alliance, the toolkit contains a few resources pertinent only to Texas. However, most of the materials have universal application. To access the toolkit, go to [www.texmed.org/Template.aspx?id=2656#Toolkits](http://www.texmed.org/Template.aspx?id=2656#Toolkits). Scroll down to the subhead titled Adolescent Vaccination. Click on the hyperlink titled "Be Wise--Immunize Physician Toolkit for Adolescents".

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**The VacScene**  
Immunization News & Information

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