



NEW JERSEY VACCINES FOR CHILDREN (VFC) NEWSLETTER



JULY 2016

NEW NJVFC EMAIL ADDRESS

PLEASE NOTE: The NJ Department of Health migrated to a new email system. You may now contact the NJVFC Program at VFC@DOH.NJ.GOV. Please be sure to update your contact list accordingly.

Chris Christie, Governor
Kim Guadagno, Lt. Governor
Cathleen D. Bennett
Commissioner

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE SERVICE

Christina Tan, MD, MPH
State Epidemiologist
Assistant Commissioner

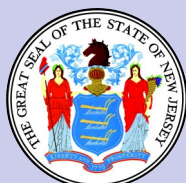
Gary Ludwig, MS
Director

Barbara Montana, MD, MPH, FACP
Medical Director

VACCINE PREVENTABLE DISEASE PROGRAM

Steven J. Bors
Program Manager

Jillian Doss Walker, MPH
CDC Public Health Advisor
Deputy Program Manager



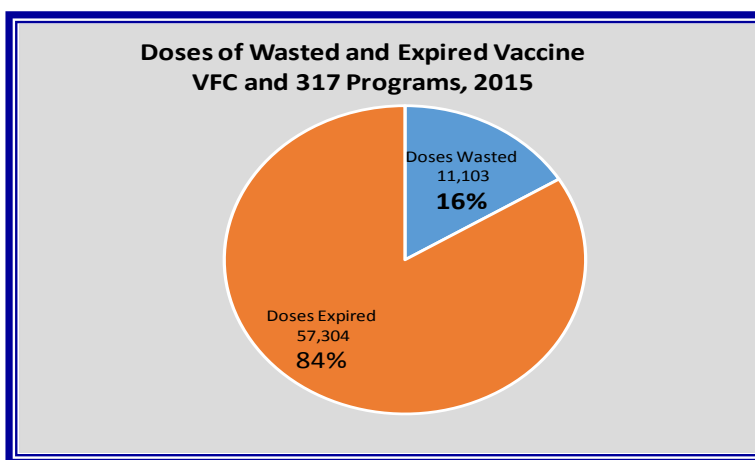
2015 VACCINE WASTE AND EXPIRATION

Through the VFC and 317-Funded Adult (317) Programs, thousands of vulnerable children and adults are provided access to vaccines which they otherwise wouldn't be able to afford. When there is an abundance of expired and wasted vaccine, these losses are absorbed directly by our program's budget—making vaccine unavailable to those who need it most. Since these programs are important to the health and well-being of the people of New Jersey, it is essential that all of us work together to ensure that every dose of vaccine is used to provide protection against preventable diseases.



As a provider responsible for state-supplied vaccines, you and your staff should continually monitor vaccine storage and handling practices to prevent vaccine waste and expiration. Vaccine quality and availability is the shared responsibility of everyone, from the time vaccine is manufactured until it is administered.

In 2015, VFC and 317 providers reported a total of 68,407 doses of wasted and expired vaccine—valued at \$2,211,089.



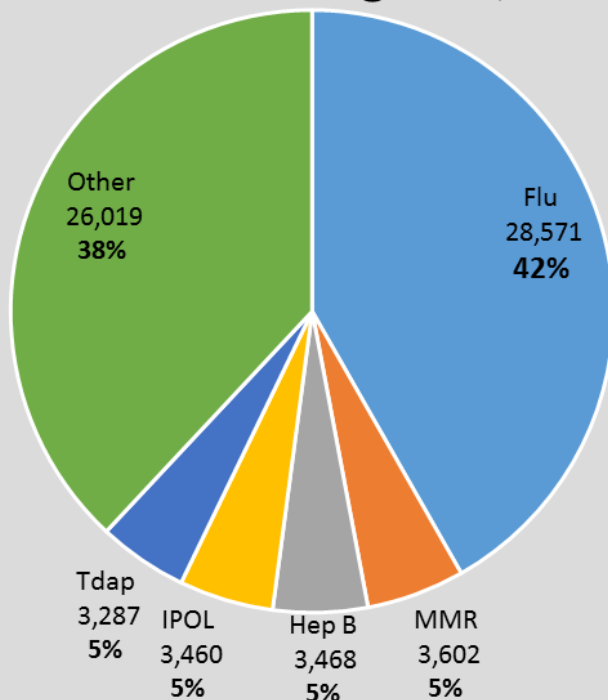
Expiration is the main cause of vaccine loss.

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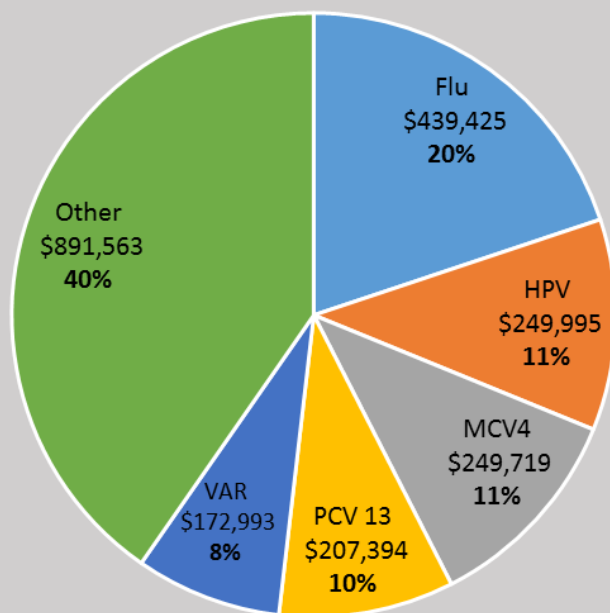
2015 VACCINE WASTE AND EXPIRATION

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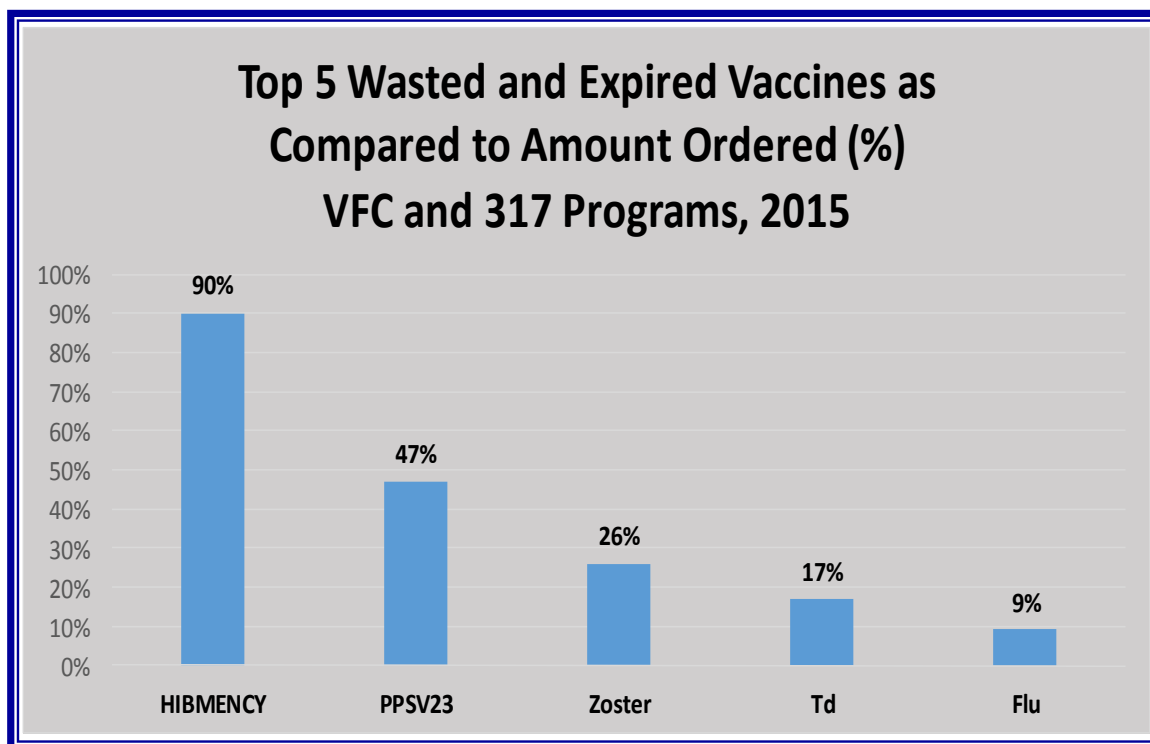
Doses of Wasted and Expired Vaccine by Type VFC and 317 Programs, 2015



Cost of Wasted and Expired Vaccines by Type VFC and 317 Programs, 2015



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2015 VACCINE WASTE AND EXPIRATION*(Continued from page two)*

Exercise good judgement when ordering vaccine to prevent vaccine waste and expiration. Below are a few tips:

- Order enough vaccine to last between ordering months as well as maintain a three-week safety stock.
- Order during your designated ordering month. However, consider decreasing or forfeiting your order if your current inventory is high.
- Review inventory before placing a new order.
- Rotate and check stock weekly so that vaccines closest to their expiration dates will be used first.
- Call the VFC Program when vaccine is within three months of its expiration date and we will help find other offices that may be able to use the vaccine. It's better to transfer vaccine to another office, than to let it expire. All transfers must be pre-approved by the VFC Program, and vaccines must be handled in accordance with the guidelines outlined in the CDC Storage & Handling Toolkit.

In addition, providers should review their current vaccine storage and handling policies and ensure that all current and new office staff are aware of the correct protocols. The routine vaccine storage plan should detail procedures for vaccine ordering and delivery, vaccine storage and temperature monitoring, and inventory management. Staff should also review the vaccine relocation plan which would be used in the event of power failures, refrigerator malfunctions, and natural disasters. For further information, please visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [Vaccine Storage & Handling Toolkit](#).

“BORROWING” VACCINE IS NOT PERMITTED

On January 1, 2013, the VFC Program announced that “borrowing” vaccine between federally-funded (VFC or 317) and private inventory was no longer permitted. This rule remains in place for a number of reasons. Foremost, borrowing vaccine was found to be used as a substitute for conducting eligibility screening. VFC and 317 eligibility must be checked and documented at each vaccination visit. Patients should receive vaccine from the appropriate funding source based on their eligibility status. Never use VFC or 317 vaccine to vaccinate an ineligible patient. Private vaccine used to vaccinate a VFC or 317-eligible patient will not be reimbursed. If VFC or 317-funded vaccine is inadvertently used on a private patient, the VFC Program should be immediately notified.

Borrowing vaccine was also found to be used in place of proper ordering, immunization recording, and inventory management practices. Order enough vaccine to last between each ordering cycle, but be sure to maintain at least a three-week safety stock for emergencies as well. Entering vaccinations into the New Jersey Immunization Information System (NJIS) in a timely manner updates patients' vaccination records, reduces online vaccine inventory, and allows for the ordering of additional vaccine when needed.

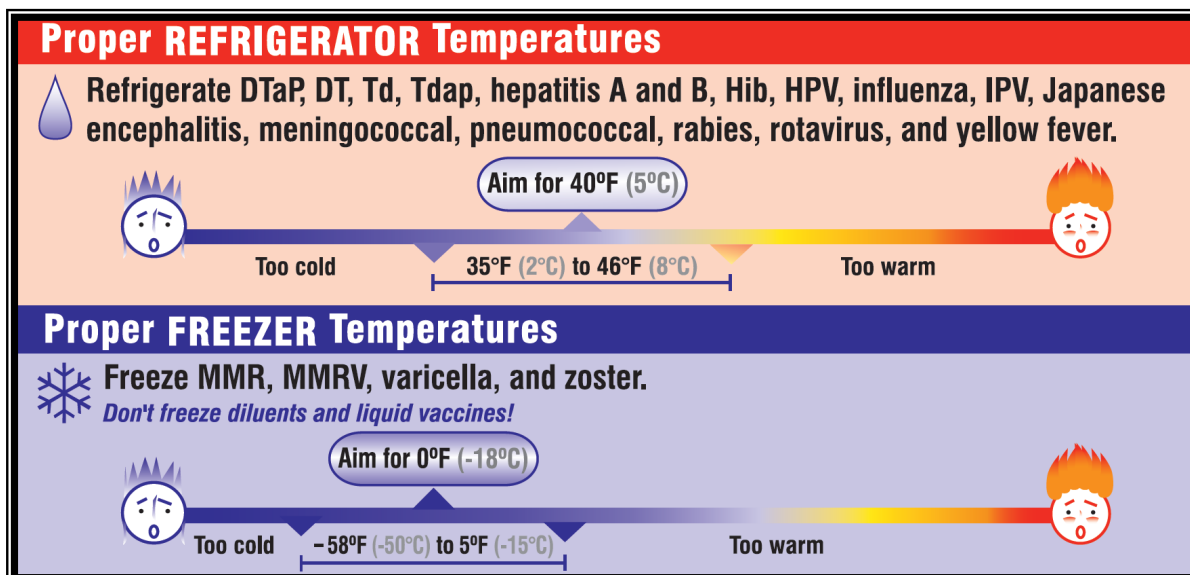
IMPORTANT: CLAIM SHIPMENTS IMMEDIATELY!



After a vaccine delivery is received, go online to *claim the shipment* in NJIS. Do not enter doses administered prior to claiming a shipment. Be sure to claim a vaccine shipment **on the date it was received at the office, otherwise your VFC or 317 online inventory will not deduct accordingly.**

TEMPERATURE LOG REQUIREMENTS

Regular temperature monitoring is key to proper cold chain management. Store frozen vaccines (MMR, MMRV, varicella, and zoster) in a freezer between -58°F and +5°F (-50°C and -15°C). Store all other routinely recommended vaccines in a refrigerator between 35°F and 46°F (2°C and 8°C). Exposure to temperatures outside these ranges may result in reduced vaccine potency and increased risk of vaccine-preventable diseases.



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VFC TEMPERATURE LOG REQUIREMENTS

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The following are the VFC Program requirements to ensure vaccines are stored at the appropriate temperatures:

1. Document refrigerator and freezer temperatures at the open and close of each business day. It is also highly recommended that you document min/max temperatures each day and reset the min/max button.
2. Keep paper temperature logs on-site at all times and make sure they are easily accessible.
3. Document all out-of-range temperatures and report the temperature excursion to the VFC Program immediately.
4. Enter temperature logs into New Jersey Inventory Management, Order and Distribution System (NJ-IMODS) at the end of each two-week log period.

If the above requirements are not followed, VFC vaccine may be removed from your office and provider offices may have to complete a vaccine restitution plan for wasted vaccine.

CHECKLIST FOR 2017 PROVIDER RE-ENROLLMENT

There are specific requirements for re-enrollment in the VFC and 317 Programs. The following is a checklist for the items you will need to successfully re-enroll:

1. The primary and back-up vaccine coordinators must take one of the below educational options by November 15, 2016.
 - A. Understanding VFC & 317 Annual Provider Education webinar must be taken after March 1, 2016.
 - B. Attend the Vaccine Storage and Handling session at the New Jersey Immunization Conference (formerly known as the VFC Conference) scheduled for November 30, 2016. Notice of the conference will be emailed to your office and posted on the NJIIS Bulletin Board later this year.
 - C. Complete the following CDC "You Call the Shots" courses after March 1, 2016:



Module 16: Vaccines for Children

AND

Module 10: Storage & Handling

Write your office PIN number on each certificate of participation and email to:
VFC@DOH.NJ.GOV.

2. Check that your National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) thermometers are not expired and that a back-up NIST thermometer is available.
3. Prepare an estimate of your patient population by age and insurance type (including privately insured patients).

NJVFC PROGRAM TIPS

- Be sure to check all spam and junk folders since the printable UPS return labels are sent from McKesson Specialty Care Distribution to your office email. The “Retrieve Your Shipment Label” link will expire within 30 days of receipt.
- Check NJ-IMODS before placing an order. Do not transact doses from NJ-IMODS simply to reconcile inventory. All transactions must be associated with a corresponding waste report. You may report wasted and expired vaccine using the IMM-39 Waste Return Form.
- Check the Interface File Statistics Report to ensure vaccine doses administered are transmitted accurately if your electronic health record system interfaces with NJIIS.
- Request a return label to return all unused and expired VFC or 317 flu vaccine to McKesson, then remove the doses from inventory. All flu vaccine from the 2015–2016 season expires June 30, 2016. This vaccine cannot be used for the 2016–2017 flu season.
- Check your National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) calibrated thermometer expiration dates routinely and recalibrate as needed.
- Make sure all primary and back-up vaccine coordinators are trained in NJIIS and NJIMODS.
- Notify the VFC Program within 30 days of any change in vaccine coordinator or other key staff.

HELP CELEBRATE NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION AWARENESS MONTH

Each year in August, National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM) provides an opportunity to highlight the value of immunization across the lifespan. Vaccines are recommended throughout our lives based on age, lifestyle, occupation, locations of travel, medical conditions, and previous vaccines.

Since a healthcare provider recommendation is the strongest predictor of vaccination, NIAM serves as a reminder for you to use every opportunity to review your patients' immunization records, recommend age-appropriate immunizations, and administer and document vaccination doses in the New Jersey Immunization Information System (NJIIS). Visit the [CDC Health Professionals/Providers](#) website for the most current clinical resources, administrative tools, immunization training, and patient education resources. In addition, the National Public Health Information Coalition produces a [NIAM Toolkit](#) which provides sample social media messages, web banners, and posters to promote NIAM in your practice.

