



NJ Vaccines for Children (VFC)

NOVEMBER 2013



Educational Requirement for All VFC Providers

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Guidelines require any provider utilizing VFC funded vaccines to have an annual educational visit. This can be accomplished by having a compliance visit, attending the VFC Conference, or taking the “*You Call The Shots*” training module, which can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/vfc/providers/index.html>. Once the CDC training is completed by the vaccine manager, the provider should fax a copy of their certificate to 609-826-4867 or email the completed certificate to vfc@doh.state.nj.us. This requirement must be completed prior to a provider being re-enrolled in the VFC program. Any questions please call the VFC Program at 609-826-4862.

Make Sure to Update your Vaccine Management Policy

Every VFC office must have a written plan to keep vaccine viable from the time it is delivered to when it is used. This plan should be reviewed at least annually and with new staff to ensure its functionality in your office. The VFC program has posted a Vaccine Management Template on the New Jersey Immunization Information System (NJIS); see the VFC – Vaccines for Children Program homepage for additional information. The template helps create a plan to follow for routine vaccine management and in case of an emergency. A vaccine emergency is any situation which may compromise the viability of vaccine. An emergency can be:

- ◆ An approaching storm
- ◆ A fire in the neighborhood
- ◆ The refrigerator temperature is too cold or too warm
- ◆ A power outage

Plan ahead for an emergency and act immediately when there is a problem with vaccine storage. Keep informed about potential emergencies using the local news and weather reports. Acting in anticipation of an emergency protects yourself, your staff, and the vaccine’s exposure to potential hazards.

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Tips to Maintain Accurate Vaccine Inventory

The Inventory page in Inventory, Management, Order and Distribution System (IMODS) provides a wealth of information for each vaccine. Click on the vaccine name to go to the “Edit Inventory/Inventory Transaction Details” page. This page shows the number of doses in stock and the number of doses which were administered to patients. Use the transactions below as needed to keep accurate inventory.

- ◆ Click on “Edit Inventory/Inventory Transaction Details” to see if multiple shipments of the same lot number were received or if vaccine was transferred into or out of the office.
- ◆ Add Transactions to remove expired or wasted vaccine from inventory.
- ◆ Doses Given to “Patients Not in NJIIS” permits inventory adjustment **ONLY** when these patients receive VFC vaccine. This should only be used when a person opts out of NJIIS.

To maintain accurate vaccine inventory, check the “Inventory” page after vaccinations are entered into NJIIS by hand or sent online from an electronic medical record. The number of doses on hand should decrease and the number of doses given should increase accordingly. If these changes are not seen after vaccinations are entered into NJIIS, further investigation is required. High online inventory influences the amount of vaccine which can be requested in a new order. Use the “Contact Us” option at the bottom of the page in IMODS and NJIIS to get help to resolve this issue.



Entering a transaction in “Inventory” should be done only when there is waste, expired vaccine , or patients who decline to have their vaccination entered into NJIIS. Using these transactions to remove inventory for any other reason is fraudulent and will require investigation by the VFC program.

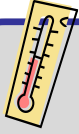
Another way to maintain accurate inventory is to ensure that vaccinations are entered into NJIIS within 30 days or less after administration [as required by the NJIIS regulations (N.J.A.C. 8:57-3)]. Develop a plan of how your office will achieve this goal. The lead physician and office manager are good resources to help develop office procedures to ensure vaccinations are entered into NJIIS as soon as possible after administration. Entering vaccinations into NJIIS in a timely manner reduces inventory and also gives the greatest leeway when placing a new vaccine order.

The VFC program would like to welcome our new staff

CDC Public Health Fellow:
Supervising Public Health Rep:
Customer Service Staff:

Tiffany Humbert-Rico
Christopher Ryan
Frank Hill
Ryan Kroslin





Check Temperature Logs

Make it a habit to enter temperature logs into IMODS/NJIIS at the end of each two-week log period. When an out-of-range temperature is entered online, IMODS/NJIIS notifies the VFC program and follow-up will occur. Enter a comment to indicate the out-of-range temperature was noticed and action was taken. In most cases, the comment clarifies what happened and no further follow-up is needed. For help with out-of-range temperatures, call the VFC program. VFC vaccine wasted due to preventable out-of-range temperatures is the financial responsibility of your office.

FluMist® Replacement Program

The FluMist® Replacement Program replaces unused, expiring FluMist® at no cost to the federal tax dollars which fund the VFC program.

How the Program Works:

1. Call or email the FluMist® Replacement Program and state the number of doses you need replaced and your VFC PIN.
(Beginning November 18, 2013: Call 1-877-633-7375 or email: medimmunereplacementprogram@mckesson.com).
2. Follow the instructions to return the expiring doses.
3. Pack the expired/expiring doses for pick up the next business day. Please note, FluMist® does not have to be returned cold.
4. FluMist® will be replaced after it is received at McKesson.

Eligibility Guidelines:

- ◆ Only FluMist® received from New Jersey VFC Program can be replaced.
- ◆ The FluMist® expiration dates are between November 18, 2013 and January 31, 2014.
- ◆ Call to request replacement doses 15 days before the expiration date on the sprayer.
- ◆ Doses will be replaced in boxes of 10. Doses from multiple boxes or lot #'s can be used to make a box of 10. Doses that are less than 10 will be rounded down.
- ◆ Requests can be made from November 18, 2013 through January 31, 2014.
- ◆ Replacement FluMist® will not be shipped until the expired/expiring doses are received.

Contact Us!

At the bottom of the page in NJIIS and IMODS, there is a new feature. Click on “Contact Us” to access help with the VFC and NJIIS program. By answering a few brief questions, your question will be directed to the appropriate department. You can use this function for help on a variety of topics, such as:

- Vaccine inventory
- Meaningful use
- Vaccine ordering
- EMR interfaces with NJIIS
- NJIIS reports
- Password resets

This new feature allows VFC to streamline requests to better serve our providers.



WHAT'S HOT!!!



- ⇒ As winter approaches, providers should ensure their secondary storage is powered by a permanent generator. Portable generators are not recommended as a result of lessons learned from Hurricane Sandy.
- ⇒ VFC staff will begin doing unannounced storage and handling visits beginning November 1, 2013. These visits are required under the CDC Guidelines.
- ⇒ Each storage unit must have a valid National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) certified, calibrated thermometer in place. The “VFC Vaccines Storage Flyer” is a resource for assistance with maintaining proper vaccine storage which is available at the website, <https://njiis.nj.gov/njiis/html/vfc.html>.

“Claim a Shipment” is a Winner!

Feedback on the new “claim a shipment “ feature has been resoundingly positive. Vaccine shipments are added into online inventory by simply entering the date vaccine was received. All pertinent data: vaccine name, lot number, expiration date and number of doses received are automatically entered into inventory. Claim a shipment has been a time saver and prevents data entry errors. Remember to claim a shipment as soon as vaccines are received.



Make Sure to Update your Vaccine Management Policy ~Continued from page 1~

Designate two vaccine managers to be responsible for vaccine and to educate others in vaccine management. Respond to out-of-range refrigerator and freezer temperatures immediately and enter a comment in the temperature log to note what happened and what was done. Ensure vaccine temperature excursions are corrected immediately. **NEVER REMOVE VACCINE EXPOSED TO OUT-OF-RANGE TEMPERATURES FROM THE REFRIGERATOR.** Label the vaccines “Do Not Use”. Call the vaccine manufacturers to determine if they are viable and call the VFC program with the outcome.

Returning Expired or Wasted Vaccine

Complete the Vaccine Return Voucher (IMM 39 form) online and use it as a guide to pack the box being returned to McKesson. Return only the type and number of vaccines entered on the Vaccine Return Voucher in this box. Complete another Vaccine Return Voucher if additional vaccines need to be returned.

It's Flu Season—Keep Vaccinating!

Flu is more dangerous than the common cold. Each year, flu places a large burden on the health and well-being of children and families. Keep the following points in mind as you recommend flu vaccine to your patients:

- ◆ Influenza causes more hospitalizations among young children than any other vaccine-preventable disease.
- ◆ Each year, approximately 20,000 children under the age of 5 are hospitalized because of flu-related complications.
- ◆ The single best way to prevent seasonal flu is to get vaccinated each year.
- ◆ Everyone \geq 6 months of age should be vaccinated as soon as flu vaccine becomes available. However, getting vaccinated in December or later can be protective because the influenza season can last as late as May.
- ◆ Children, 6 months—59 months of age, attending child care/preschool in NJ are required to have a flu vaccine by December 31 of each year. (Immunization of Pupils in School regulations; N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.19).

