



Colorado VFC Review

MAY 2009

Welcome to the Colorado Vaccine for Children (VFC) Review!

In partnership with the Colorado Immunization Program, the Colorado Vaccines for Children Project and the Colorado Children's Immunization Coalition, welcome to the Colorado VFC Review!

This periodic email and fax blast will quickly update you on all you need to know about the VFC program. We promise to keep it short, sweet and to-the-point so you can get back to caring for your patients!

This review will keep you informed of changes to vaccines and vaccine storage without an onslaught of

memos. We will continue to use memos as a way to deliver urgent updates, but reminders and routine information will be communicated through the Colorado VFC Review.

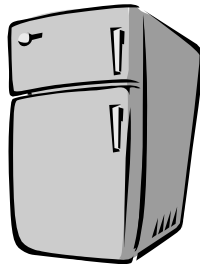
Please make sure to read the information in each issue and pass it along to anyone else in your practice that might need these important updates.

Thank you for keeping Colorado's kids healthy through immunizations!

New Vaccine Storage and Handling Guidelines for 2009

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) have provided the following guidelines for the proper storage and handling of VFC vaccines:

1. VFC providers must have appropriate equipment that can store and assist with maintenance of proper conditions of vaccines.
2. Refrigerators without freezers, and stand-alone freezers, may be better at maintaining the required temperatures. However, a combination refrigerator/freezer unit sold for home use is acceptable for vaccine storage if the refrigerator and freezer compartments each have a separate external door.
3. Refrigerators or freezers used for vaccine storage must comply with the following requirements:



- Be able to maintain enough required vaccine to hold the year's largest inventory;
- At a minimum, have a working certified thermometer inside each storage compartment. Grantees may require VFC providers to have a calibrated certified thermometer inside each storage compartment. Calibration must be traceable to standards provided by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) (a U.S. Government agency within the Commerce Department) or a laboratory recognized by NIST. Calibration can be traceable to NIST using American Society for Testing and

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In each Colorado VFC Review:

Tips to Stay Compliant
Program Reminders
Items to Keep Top of Mind

For more information contact:

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Please read & post for others in your practice!



CONT. New Vaccine Storage and Handling Guidelines for 2009

Materials (ASTM) methods for the calibration process;

- Be dedicated to the storage of vaccines. (Food and beverages must not be stored in a vaccine storage unit because this practice results in frequent opening of the door and destabilization of the temperature.)

Are “Dorm Style” refrigerators acceptable storage units for VFC vaccines? **Yes and No!**

Dormitory-style refrigerators should only be used to store a clinic's single-day supply of **refrigerated** vaccines, and these vaccines should be *returned* to the main refrigerator storage unit at the end of each clinic day. Dormitory-style refrigerators are not adequate for long-term or permanent storage of biological products because they do not maintain appropriate temperatures.

Storage of VFC vaccine in refrigerators that are designed for use in small household spaces such as dorm rooms *are never acceptable for permanent storage* of VFC vaccines. Permanent storage is

defined as: the vaccine supply is maintained in the unit 24 hours-a-day.

CDC has never recommended that these small dorm-type refrigerators be used as permanent storage units for VFC vaccines. In 2008-2009, CDC is requiring all VFC programs to work with their enrolled VFC providers to eliminate the use of dorm-style refrigerators as permanent storage units for VFC vaccines. To that end, **all dorm-style refrigerators must be phased-out of currently enrolled VFC-provider offices by December 31, 2009.** The Colorado VFC Program has been working with providers that have these units so the transition to acceptable VFC vaccine storage units will be completed by December 31, 2009. Effective immediately, all newly enrolling VFC providers cannot use a dorm-style refrigerator as a permanent storage unit for VFC vaccine.

For more information check out:

<http://www2a.cdc.gov/vaccines/ed/shtoolkit/>

BENCHMARKING REMINDER

Benchmarking packets went out to ALL VFC providers during the month of March. If you did not receive your benchmarking packet please contact Nicole Ortiz, VFC Operations Coordinator at 303-692-2334, **immediately**.

All benchmarking information and re-enrollment paperwork needs to be completed and returned to Nicole no later than May 29, 2009. Please remember, the Provider Signature page needs to be signed by the appropriate individual, as stated on the form.

Failure to return the benchmarking/re-enrollment information by the due date will lead to a temporary suspension of VFC vaccine shipments.

FLU VACCINE PRE-ORDERS FOR 2009-2010 FLU SEASON

All pre-orders for flu vaccine for the next flu season should have been returned to the VFC program by the end of March. If you failed to submit a pre-order, you must wait until August/September, and submit your regular flu vaccine order at this time.

The CDC requires the VFC Program Flu vaccine pre-order be submitted by the end of April therefore the program is unable to take any more pre-orders at this time.

Want to get the Colorado VFC Update via email? Just email your name, title and practice name to...

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