



Immunization Newsletter

Summer 2013

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Combination Vaccine Shortages

Due to the extended shortage of Pentacel[®] vaccine (manufactured by sanofi pasteur), Pediarix[®] vaccine (manufactured by GlaxoSmithKline) is now in short supply. As a result, Pentacel and Pediarix are now available from MDPH for only a **single** dose in the DTaP series.

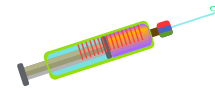
Because of the sufficient availability of single antigen vaccines, NO child should go unvaccinated.

Please see the most recent MDPH advisory at:
www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/dph/cdc/immunization/alerts-pediarix-pentacel-shortage-201304.pdf.

For guidance about scheduling see CDC's:

Full Guidance for Vaccinating During the 2013 Pentacel, Daptacel and Pediarix Shortages www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vac-gen/shortages/downloads/pentacel-guidance.pdf

Quick Reference Guide for Vaccine During the 2013 Pentacel Daptacel and Pediarix Shortages www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vac-gen/shortages/downloads/pentacel-quick-guidance.pdf



Reminder – MDPH recommends the storage of MMR vaccine in the freezer

MMR may be stored in the freezer to reduce the likelihood of vaccine loss due to a refrigeration issue since MMR is much more temperature sensitive than other vaccines. Storing MMR in the freezer can also free up storage space in the refrigerator for other refrigerated vaccines. DO NOT store MMR diluent in the freezer. The diluent may be stored in the refrigerator or at room temperature.

Talking to Parents about Vaccine Safety

CDC recently made updates to its [Understanding Vaccines and Vaccine Safety](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/patient-ed/conversations/) series of fact sheets for parents and patients. This series is part of CDC's [Provider Resources for Vaccine Conversations with Parents](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/patient-ed/conversations/) suite of materials. These resources reflect the most current information available about vaccines, vaccine safety, and vaccine-preventable diseases and are available here: www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/patient-ed/conversations/. We hope you find them helpful when talking to parents about vaccines -- particularly when trying to address issues related to vaccine hesitancy.

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MIIS Update

The Immunization Program is transitioning to a new online system for vaccine ordering and annual provider enrollment this summer. This new online ordering and enrollment system will be part of a comprehensive **Vaccine Management Module** that will be integrated into the **Massachusetts Immunization Information System (MIIS)**.

The Immunization Program will provide in person and webinar trainings during summer/fall, in addition to self-paced video training materials. The trainings and materials will describe how to access the MIIS to use the Vaccine Management Module including ordering, tracking and reporting of vaccine inventories. Information about trainings will be forthcoming via email and posted on the ContactMIIS Resource Center website: www.contactmiis.info.

If your practice orders state-supplied vaccines and has not yet registered with the MIIS, **please register today to be able to continue ordering vaccine from MDPH.**

State law ([M.G.L. Chapter 111, Section 24M](#)) passed in June of 2010 requires all licensed health care providers who administer immunizations in Massachusetts to report patient immunization information to the MIIS. Sites that are not yet doing so should be preparing to report administered immunizations to the MIIS.

To learn more, visit the ContactMIIS Resource Center: www.contactmiis.info

**Questions regarding registration, contact the MIIS Help Desk: 617-983-4335
or miishelpdesk@state.ma.us**

Questions regarding vaccine ordering, contact the Vaccine Unit: 617-983-6828

New VFC Program Requirements for 2013

Beginning in 2013, there are new federal Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program requirements that apply to all providers receiving pediatric vaccines from MDPH. Two of the most significant changes are:

1. VFC screening must be documented for each patient less than 19 years of age at every immunization visit, and
2. Vaccine Managers must attend a formal training session each year (if you receive a site visit from MDPH, this will include a formal training session).

Review these and all the 2013 requirements in your enrollment paperwork, which you can also find here: www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/dph/cdc/immunization/vaccine-management-provider-enrollment-pediatric.pdf.

Certificates will recognize stewardship of vaccine and ensuring children are fully immunized by 2 years of age

In 2012, MDPH Immunization Program staff conducted 480 site visits to providers of state-supplied vaccine to assess for compliance with the Standards for Child and Adolescent Immunization Practices, vaccine storage and handling, and documentation for the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program. One hundred and forty providers who had no compliance issues identified during their site visit and will receive a certificate for excellent stewardship of publicly-purchased vaccines. Immunization levels were also assessed at 210 sites through the Assessment Feedback Incentives and eXchange of Information (AFIX) standards. During this chart review, children are assessed for their completion of the 4:3:1:3:3:1:4 vaccine series, which includes 4 or more doses of DTaP, 3 or more doses of polio, 1 or more MMR, 3 or more Hib, 3 or more hep B, 1 or more varicella, and 4 or more PCV. A threshold is set at 80% of children up-to-date with the series by two years of age. Forty seven providers that met the threshold during their visit will also be recognized with a certificate for excellence in ensuring the children seen at their practice are fully immunized by two years of age. In addition, there are 42 providers who will receive a certificate, recognizing both their excellent stewardship of the vaccine and their success in ensuring the children at their practice are fully immunized on time.

Please note: Provider sites receive a site visit from the MDPH Immunization Program every other year. Therefore only those sites visited in 2012 were eligible for recognition this year.

How to Identify a Dorm Style Refrigerator

Dorm style refrigerators are **not acceptable** for vaccine storage of any kind including temporary storage. The CDC and MDPH strongly recommend the use of stand alone refrigerators and stand alone freezers for vaccine storage. Below are some examples of dorm style and stand alone units.



This dorm style refrigerator has an uninsulated freezer situated across the top of the main compartment. There may or may not be a freezer door depending on the model.



This dorm style refrigerator has an uninsulated freezer situated in the top corner of the main compartment. There may or may not be a freezer door depending on the model.



This is an example of a small stand-alone refrigerator. There are many different styles and sizes, but you should purchase one large enough to hold a full supply of vaccines with space in between the boxes to allow for air circulation. Don't forget to include your flu vaccine when considering which model to purchase!



This is an example of a stand-alone freezer. As with the stand-alone refrigerators, there are many different styles and sizes to choose from and you should keep your largest supply in mind when purchasing. If you need guidance on purchasing a refrigerator or freezer, please contact Bob Morrison, Vaccine Unit Manager at (617) 983-6828.