

Massachusetts Department of Public Health Immunization Program

MIAP 2008

Centralized Vaccine Ordering and Distribution Lessons Learned

Agenda

- McKesson Report Card
- New MDPH Issues
- Provider Issues Uncovered
- Flu Vaccine Distribution This Season
- Suggestions Going Forward

Providers Were Prepared

- Providers increased their inventory
- Replacement vaccine was ordered in a timely manner
- Very few emergency orders distributed from “safety net” vaccine supply in regional offices
- All documents (*Vaccine Order Form*, *Vaccine Usage Aggregate Report*, and temperature logs) were completed with each order

McKesson Delivered

- Vaccine orders were processed in a timely manner and objectives were achieved
- Any packing or shipping errors were handled in a professional manner
- Confirmed information that was not in CDC's VACMAN database

Vaccine Shipments

- Shipments are made according to schedule
- Most shipments arrive within 2 weeks
- Reorder when sites have a one month supply
- Reduce inventory levels

Provider Misconceptions

- Limited vaccine availability of adults
- Vaccine availability for VFC-eligible children
- Vaccine availability for insured children
- *Childhood Vaccine Eligibility Table and Adult Vaccine Availability Table* are updated as needed
- Vaccine Unit staff notifies providers by fax when adjustments to orders are required

Vaccines For Children (VFC) Program

- Funded entirely with federal dollars
- Started in October 1994
- Massachusetts has received funding through this program since it began
- Entitlement program for all individuals that qualify

VFC Eligibility

- Birth through 18 years of age:
 - Enrolled in Medicaid
 - Without health insurance
 - Seen at federally qualified health center
 - American Indian (Native American) or Alaska Native

MDPH Issues

- Less control of vaccine supply for Massachusetts providers (Hib containing vaccines is current issue)
- State and federal vaccine purchases are driven by provider orders
- Spend plans need to be adjusted monthly to ensure vaccine funding and availability

Temperature Log Problems

- Many provider refrigerators are out of range (usually too cold)
- Some provider staff don't understand how to read a thermometer
- Some provider staff don't understand negative numbers when trying to regulate freezer temperatures
- Review these issues at staff meetings

Vaccine Storage Problems

- Provider inventories are too large
 - More vaccine than is necessary
 - Need to order more frequently in smaller quantities
- Refrigerators are jammed which could damage vaccines
 - Temperatures out of range
 - No room for flu vaccine

Vaccine Storage Capacity

- Sites refrigerator(s) should be large enough to hold a 2-month supply of vaccine at the busiest time of year (flu season)
- When storing vaccine in refrigerator, allow air flow along sides, back, and top of vaccines.
- Do not block air flow into refrigerator
- Failure to adhere to these measures could result in the freezing of vaccines

Vaccine Storage Capacity

- As new vaccines are licensed, additional refrigerator storage space will be needed
- Manufacturers are moving towards packaging in pre-filled syringes to maximize doses produced
- Larger refrigerators are not necessarily more expensive than smaller units
- Evaluate your current and future vaccine storage needs before it becomes a problem
- Dorm style refrigerators with freezer compartments are not acceptable for vaccine storage

Remember This Model? We are using it for Flu Vaccine

State Funds

317 Grant Funds

VFC Funds

Purchase Hep B, DTaP, IPV, Pediarix, PCV7, Hib, Rotavirus, MMRV, MMR, Varicella, Hep A, PPV23, HPV, MCV4, Tdap, and Flu vaccines on federal contract.

Purchase DT and influenza vaccines on state contract.

Manufacture Td at UMass Biologic Laboratories.

Distribute to five regional depots.

Distribute to 141 boards of health, VNAs, hospitals, and other distributors.

Distribute to private and public providers at 3,300 sites.

Flu Vaccine Distribution

- 2 Methods of Distribution
 - McKesson distributes flu vaccine purchased with federal VFC funds (approx. 30%)
 - Traditional distribution model (previous slide) will be used to distribute flu vaccine with state funds (approx. 70%)
- All flu vaccine was allocated (except 0.25ml syringes) by August 29th

Flu Vaccine Distribution

- 6 formulations were purchased to maximize doses available to Mass. Residents
- Continue vaccinating throughout the season
- Contact your vaccine distributor for additional doses
- Report aggregate flu usage to the Vaccine Unit by March 13, 2009 or risk no allocation for the following flu season

New Communications

- No longer have Boards of Health to distribute information
 - Blast faxes
 - E-mail via list serves
 - Phone calls
- Important to update your contact information
- Mailings are reduced to the most important information – read your mail
- Share new information with your office staff

Reminders

Vaccine Accountability

- Vaccine accountability is critical to providers receiving replacement vaccines.
- Document vaccine usage, and any doses lost on the *Vaccine Usage Aggregate Report*.
- Vaccine will be approved on a replacement basis. You must account for all doses from your previous shipment

Vaccine Ordering

- All documents (*Vaccine Order Form*, *Vaccine Usage Aggregate Form*, and Temperature Logs) must be complete.
- Incomplete documents or improper storage temperatures will delay vaccine orders and shipments of replacement vaccine
- When orders are approved, vaccine can be expected in 10-14 days

Vaccine Returns

- Damaged or expired vaccines (these should be minimal or none at all) should be returned to McKesson
- *Vaccine Return Request Form* must be completed and faxed to the Vaccine Unit
- Vaccine Unit will coordinate with McKesson the pick up of the vaccines by FedEx or UPS
- A copy of the *Vaccine Return Request Form* should be in the box with the vaccines

Vaccine Storage Questions

- Vaccine Management Direct Line
 - (617) 983-6828
- Toll- Free to Immunization/Epidemiology
 - (888) 658-2850 ask for ext. 6828 or the Vaccine Management Unit
- Always consult with the Vaccine Management Unit before removing improperly stored vaccine from the storage unit