

Immunization Partners

This update includes the shipping file for the week of 12/12/2011, a reminder about faxing order forms to us, a note about vaccine shipping in winter weather conditions, a note about closing out the practice profile process, notice about plans for 2012 provider enrollment, and a request for information from Snohomish County.

General Vaccine Ordering Update:

The attached “orders shipped,” file includes shipping data for the week of 12/12/2011.

Reminder about Accuracy on Order Forms:

In early 2012, we will begin in earnest to move toward paperless vaccine ordering. Stay tuned for more information on that, including opportunities to pilot the new paperless strategy. Until then, providers and LHJs should continue to submit vaccine orders to our office via fax. Data accuracy on the forms is important. For the most part, demographic information and vaccine ordering data matches what is in the Immunization Information System (IIS). That’s great news! We continue to see some data entry errors though. We catch them when we review the paper forms and compare them to the data entered in the IIS. We most commonly see the doses entered on the wrong vaccine line or vaccine that is entered on the order form and not entered into IIS. Sometimes addresses have incorrect street numbers, missing suite numbers or other typographical mistakes. Orders can be delayed if we don’t get a fax from the LHJ after an order is placed in the IIS. We know everyone is anxious to stop using the paper forms. So are we! Until then, please continue to work with us to assure data is accurate and can be checked prior to vaccines being ordered.

Managing Vaccine Shipments in Winter Weather Conditions:

Bad weather is occurring in various parts of the country over the next few months. This may cause delays for some vaccine shipments. A shipping delay of one day may not mean the vaccines are non-viable. In extreme weather, McKesson uses packing boxes guaranteed for 72 hours (3 days). Except for extreme circumstances, vaccines typically arrive within 3 days after McKesson ships them.

When a vaccine shipment arrives – open it and check the temperature monitoring strip immediately.

- If the temperature monitoring strip shows the temperature did not go out-of-range, please store the vaccine appropriately for use.
- If the temperature monitoring strip shows the vaccine has been exposed to out-of-range temperatures, providers should contact their LHJ immediately. Please contact DOH immediately once a provider has reported a compromised vaccine shipment. DOH will work with McKesson to resolve the issue. McKesson will replace the vaccine at no cost if notified about vaccine shipments exposed to out-of-range temperatures within two hours. To meet the two hour limit, if providers are unable to get a hold of

their LHJ, please instruct them to contact McKesson directly to report shipments arriving with out-of-range temperatures. Their phone number is: 1-877-822-7746. The vaccines should be stored appropriately (refrigerator or freezer), labeled “do not use,” and kept separate from other vaccines until the viability is determined.

Update on Practice Profiles:

THANKS! goes to everyone for helping to encourage providers to complete their 2011 Practice Profile. We are now at 94% with only 66 profiles missing. LHJs do not need to follow-up with the remaining providers. DOH will work directly with non-responders as needed.

2012 VFC Provider Agreements:

We are getting ready to start the 2012 provider re-enrollment process. LHJs who re-enroll providers during the first 3 or 4 months of the year will follow the same process steps we've used in the past. LHJs will receive their Provider Agreement packets in the mail based on their scheduled enrollment period (attached). The packets will include Provider Agreements for each provider in the LHJ, pre-populated with the demographic data and physician list. The January agreements are scheduled to go out January 3, 2012. The packets will also include the cover memo, a blank 2012 agreement and a blank frozen vaccine agreement. If you have questions about the Provider Agreements, please contact Wendy Bowman at Wendy.Bowman@doh.wa.gov. We hope to have on-line provider enrollment up and running during the second quarter of 2012. We may ask a few LHJs to pilot the new enrollment process at that time. We will provide more information as we get closer to having this option available.

Request for Information:

Snohomish County is interested in information from other LHJs about quality improvement strategies for vaccine administration. If your LHJs has conducted quality improvement projects for vaccine administration or has information you think might be helpful to Snohomish County, please contact Rita Mell at:

Rita Mell, RN, BSN | Immunization Program Manager | Communicable Disease Division
3020 Rucker Avenue, Ste 108 | Everett, WA 98201-3900 |
425.339.8626 rmell@shd.snohomish.wa.gov