

### Immunization Partners

This update includes the shipping file for the week of 12/05/2011, guidelines for transporting Varicella vaccine, a note about a recent communication from the Washington Vaccine Association (WVA), a note about flu vaccine pre-book preparation activities, and an update on single antigen orders.

### General Vaccine Ordering Update:

The attached "orders shipped," file includes shipping data for the week of 12/05/2011.

### Transporting Varicella Containing Vaccines:

CDC sent us an update about packing and shipping varicella and MMRV vaccine. The CDC and the manufacturer do not recommend repacking and transporting varicella or MMRV vaccines. If either vaccine must be repacked and transported, CDC recommends the use of a portable freezer unit that maintains the temperature between -58°F and +5°F (-50°C and -15°C). Portable freezers may be available for rent in some places. ***Dry ice is not recommended for temporary storage or emergency transport.***

If a portable freezer unit is not available, transport varicella or MMRV vaccine at 36°F to 46°F, (2°C to 8°C). Transporting varicella or MMRV vaccine at these temperatures is considered a temperature excursion. When the vaccine arrives, contact the vaccine manufacturer to determine if the vaccine is viable and if it should be short dated.

Varicella and MMRV vaccines may be in transit at 36°F to 46°F, (2°C to 8°C) for up to 72 continuous hours prior to reconstitution. The following steps are recommended:

1. Place a calibrated thermometer as close to the vaccine as possible in the container used for transport.
2. **Record the:**
  - a. Time the vaccine was removed from the storage unit and placed in the container
  - b. Temperature during transport
  - c. Time and temperature at the beginning and end of transport
3. **Immediately** upon arrival at the alternate storage facility:
  - a. Place **the vaccine in the freezer between -58°F and +5°F (-50°C and -15°C).**
    - Any freezer that has a separate sealed freezer door and reliably maintains a temperature between -58°F and +5°F (-50°C and -15°C) is acceptable for storage of Varicella containing vaccines.
  - b. Document the time the vaccine was removed from the container and placed in the alternate storage unit.
4. **Contact the manufacturer at 1-800-637-2590 for further guidance.**
5. Do not discard vaccine without contacting the manufacturer and/or the immunization program for guidance.
6. LHJs must approve all vaccine transfers.

**WVA Assessment Grid Change Notice:**

Providers may have received a recent communication from the Washington Vaccine Association regarding upcoming changes to the Assessment Grid. The Assessment Grid changes are effective February 1, 2012. Providers need to update their billing systems to reflect the changes. We will send a blast fax this weekend to help ensure providers are aware of the changes. A copy of the fax is attached.

**Childhood Flu Vaccine Pre-book Preparation:**

We are asking providers for help with planning the state's childhood flu vaccine pre-book for 2012 - 2013. We want data from providers about their childhood flu vaccine needs for the 2012 – 2013 flu season. We expect the on-line process to be available about December 16<sup>th</sup>. The data will help us determine the amount and type of flu vaccine we pre-book for the 2012-2013 season. This is not a personalized pre-book. There will not be a one-to-one match of provider to product based on the data we get from providers. We will tell providers when the on-line process opens and send a reminder before the on-line process closes. This heads' up message is included in a blast fax that will go out over the weekend:

**Childhood Flu Vaccine Pre-Book Activity:**

- In mid-December, the Department of Health will conduct an online flu vaccine pre-book data gathering activity.
- Please be prepared to estimate your flu vaccine needs for 2012 – 2013.

**Single Antigen Orders:**

We've seen an increase in single antigen orders over the last few months. Processing single antigen orders is inefficient and shipping is more expensive. Our statewide goal is to keep single antigen orders at or below 3% of our total order volume. Overall, our statewide average is looking pretty good at 3.6%. Our monthly averages, however, have gone from 3.3% in September, to 4.9% in October, and up to 5.6% in November. Please continue to work with your providers to keep single antigen orders to a minimum. (See attachment of LHJ single antigen counts by month.)