

Philadelphia Immunization Program

SPECIAL DELIVERY

The Philadelphia Department of Public Health
Division of Disease Control

DONALD F. SCHWARZ, MD, MPH, Deputy Mayor, Health & Opportunity / Health Commissioner

NAN FEYLER, JD, MPH, Chief of Staff

CAROLINE C. JOHNSON, MD, Director, Division of Disease Control



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2014 Immunization Program Updates

- Updated 2014 Immunization Schedule
- HPV Project Reminder/Recall
- Short-Dated Vaccine Policy Changes
- Storage and Handling Updates: Data Loggers; Dual Units; Policy Changes
- Twice Annual AFIX Assessments
- New VFC/VFAAR and KIDS Enrollment Forms Due June 2014
- Screen for Insurance at Every Immunization Visit
- New Immunization Program Manual

2014 Immunization Schedule

Each year the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) releases an updated immunization schedule. You can find this year's new schedule for children, adolescents and adults online on the Philadelphia Immunization Program's website: <http://kids.phila.gov> or on the CDC's website at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/>

HPV Project Reminder/Recall

Based off of immunization histories found in the KIDS Plus Immunization Information System (IIS), the Philadelphia Immunization Program is mailing reminder/recall postcards to parents of teenagers who have not started or completed the three-dose HPV series. Learn more about the project at: <http://kids.phila.gov/>.

Short-Dated Vaccine Policy Changes

A health advisory detailing changes to the short dated vaccine policy will be released soon.

Storage and Handling Updates

- The Philadelphia Immunization Program is launching a pilot program with 30 providers to test data loggers, which continuously monitor vaccine storage temperatures. The Immunization

Program will use information collected from this pilot program to make recommendations for use of data loggers by all providers.

- Based on the findings of the data logger pilot program, the Immunization Program may consider implementing a new requirement for storing frozen vaccines in 2015. This requirement would prohibit frozen vaccines (like Varicella) from being stored in household dual-unit refrigerators/freezers. The refrigerator section can still be used for refrigerated vaccine, but providers must use a separate freezer. Stay tuned for the data logger pilot program findings!

Twice Annual AFIX Assessments

The Philadelphia Immunization Program will now be providing offices with coverage assessment data twice yearly; once at your annual VFC/AFIX compliance visit and once six (6) months later.

New VFC/VFAAR and KIDS Enrollment Forms Due June 2014

Updated enrollment forms will be distributed, and every VFC/VFAAR provider will be required to submit these documents by June 2014. KIDS Plus users must also complete a new KIDS Confidentiality Agreement to have access to KIDS Plus Immunization Information System. Forms will be distributed in late Spring 2014.

Screen for Insurance at Every Immunization Visit

This is a reminder to screen all patients at every immunization visit for insurance status. A patient's coverage may have changed from their last visit. VFC vaccine can only be administered to Medicaid-insured, uninsured and underinsured patients who are 0 through 18 years of age. VFAAR vaccine can only be administered to uninsured patients.

New Immunization Program Manual

An updated version of the Philadelphia Immunization Program Manual – which contains all policies, procedures and resources – will be available online by summer 2014 at: <http://kids.phila.gov>. This page will be continuously updated with the latest program recommendations and requirements.