



March 8, 2016

2016 Immunization Program Update

New Immunization Program Website

The Philadelphia Immunization Program has an updated website. It is the same URL: <http://kids.phila.gov/> with an updated look. You will see changes on the landing page and on all of the links. The changes are specific to the website pages that are viewed, without needing to log in.

Immunization Program Staff Updates

In the last year, the Immunization Program has had important staff changes: Shumethia Seal is the VFC Coordinator, Sarah Bonilla is the VFAAR Coordinator, and Dr. Kristen Feemster is the Medical Director. See our full staff page online: <http://kids.phila.gov/index.php/about-us/staff/>

KIDS Plus IIS Upgrades

KIDS Plus IIS upgrades will be implemented in March and the summer of 2016. More information on the upgrades will follow.

2016 ACIP Pediatric and Adult Immunization Schedules

The ACIP has released updated childhood and adult immunization schedules. See the updated schedules: <http://kids.phila.gov/index.php/resources/recommended-immunization-schedules/>

Digital Data Logger Requirement

All VFC and VFAAR storage unit temperatures must be monitored with a certified, calibrated digital data logger. Digital data loggers continuously monitor storage temperatures and can quickly alert you of any problems. To schedule an appointment to install your digital data logger, please email Tempcheck@phila.gov

2016 VFC and VFAAR Program Enrollment

Annual enrollment and re-enrollment in the VFC and VFAAR programs will begin in June 2016. Providers are required to complete the *You Call the Shots Training*. The Immunization Program will also distribute a *Survey Monkey* survey to allow providers to give feedback on these programs.



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VFC Storage and Handling Information

Effective January 1, 2016 the VFC program no longer allows VFC vaccine requiring freeze storage to be stored in the freezer unit of a household combination refrigerator/freezer. VFC vaccines requiring freeze storage must be stored in a stand-alone freezer unit.

When you purchase a new freezer, like with the purchase of any new storage unit, you must confirm that the unit is maintaining temperatures. Please document 2 weeks' worth of freezer temps and fax to 215-238-6948 before moving your VFC vaccines requiring freeze storage.

If you have any questions, please contact Tempcheck@phila.gov

VFC Wastage Policy Reminder

The Philadelphia VFC/VFAAR Program will require dose-for-dose reimbursement for instances of expired and wasted vaccine. Each site has a 5% wastage/expired vaccine allowance based on the site's total VFC/VFAAR vaccine orders from the previous city fiscal year. Once a site exceeds this 5% threshold, the site is required to reimburse the Immunization Program via private purchase.

All returns must be reported using KIDS Plus IIS. If training is needed, please contact Kamisha Love Thomas at 215-685-6784 and select option 2.

If you have any questions about this policy, please contact your VFC or VFAAR Coordinator.

CDC Adult Immunization Grant

The Philadelphia Immunization Program has received a two-year grant from the CDC to improve adult immunization rates, and to improve the adult vaccination data available in KIDS Plus IIS. The project will provide Continuing Education credits for community health centers, large health systems, and pharmacies. This includes an overview of adult immunization requirements and training on how to use KIDS Plus IIS. This project focuses on influenza, pneumococcal, hepatitis B, and zoster vaccines.

Pink Books Available

In 2015, the CDC published the *Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases - 13th Edition* (known as the Pink Book). For a copy, contact Veronica Alvarez by email Veronica.Alvarez@phila.gov. In the email, please provide your VFC site PIN and contact information.

You can also find the book online at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/index.html>