



**TO:** Regional Directors, Public Health Regions  
Regional Immunization Program Managers, Health Service Regions  
Directors, Local Health Departments  
Immunization Managers, Local Health Departments

**FROM:** Karen Hess, Manager  
Vaccine Services Group

**THRU:** Jack C. Sims, Manager *Jack C. Sims*  
Immunization Branch

**DATE:** January 31, 2012

**SUBJECT:** Texas Vaccines for Children (TVFC) Program: Temporary Change to Adult Safety Net Policy on MCV4 Vaccine \*\*\*\*\*EXTENSION\*\*\*\*\*

---

Memo Distribution: This memo is intended for Local Health Departments, Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Health Service Regions, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) and Family Planning Clinics only; please do not disseminate to other private providers.

The temporary change to the Adult Safety Net vaccine policy for meningococcal vaccine is set to expire today, January 31. The DSHS is extending the temporary change for two weeks to allow students in higher education additional time to obtain the vaccine through a public health department or ASN provider. ASN providers may continue to order vaccine as needed for this policy extension. This extension will expire on February 15, 2012.

The original memorandum (with adjusted extension dates) follows:

On January 1, 2012, new state meningitis vaccine requirements went into effect that require certain entering college students to present proof of receiving a Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine (MCV4) within the past five years. In an effort to support the demand for this vaccine by adult students over the next two months, DSHS is implementing a temporary change in the Adult Safety Net (ASN) policy for the MCV4 vaccine only. Effective now through February 15, 2012, any student presenting at an ASN clinic for a MCV4 vaccine may receive the vaccine through the ASN program.

DSHS will be ordering additional vaccine to meet the demand in the coming weeks if needed, and will also work with providers who have more vaccine than demand to move vaccine to areas

with a greater need. MCV4 orders should be placed as usual using the Electronic Vaccine Inventory (EVI) system. Orders will be shipped as vaccine becomes available.

The amended eligibility for MCV4 through February 15, 2012 is as follows:

**Meningococcal Vaccine (MCV)**

Uninsured and underinsured adults 19-55 years who are at risk. The following groups are considered at risk:

1. Medical indications: adults with anatomic or functional asplenia or terminal complement component deficiencies.
2. Revaccination after 5 years might be indicated for adults previously vaccinated with MPSV4 who remain at high risk for infection.
3. Uninsured and underinsured persons who travel to or live in countries in which meningococcal disease is hyperendemic or epidemic.
4. Other: any college student regardless of insurance status presenting at an Adult Safety Net site.

Efforts are ongoing to educate college staff and students that insurance widely covers this vaccine, and that the first source for the vaccine should be the medical home. Community vaccinators and university health centers may also supply the vaccine. For links to the legislation, rules, and other guidelines visit the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board website at: <http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/index.cfm?objectid=A641CD0D-E56A-A36A-1BCB39FF80781178>

At this time, there are no other changes to the Adult Vaccine Safety Net Program. However, we are currently examining options of how best to serve clients and contractors based on a decrease in funding that has historically supported the ASN program. Any additional changes will be communicated via official memoranda from DSHS. If you have questions regarding this information, please contact your health service region or TVFC consultant.