

Immunization Newsletter

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Special points of interest:

- Flu vaccine will be shipped by GIV this flu season.
- Start ordering flu vaccine in September.
- Preservative free formulation of the flu vaccine is available for children age 6 mos. to 35 mos.

Power Outages can affect Vaccine Supply

On August 14, 2003, the power grid for the eastern United States experienced an outage that affected numerous states. Now that power has been restored to these areas, we should look back in retrospect, and think about what action we would take to protect our state supplied vaccines if a power outage happened in our community or clinic.

Here are some things to remember during a power outage:

*Do not open freezers and refrigerators until power is restored.

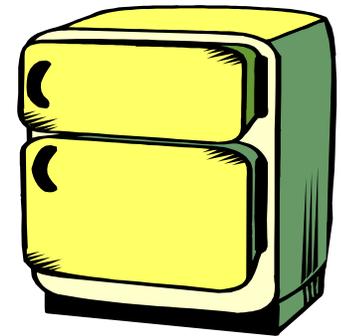
*Most refrigerated vaccines are relatively stable at room temperature for limited periods of time. The vaccines of most concern are MMR and Varivax, which are sensitive

to elevated temperatures.

*If the power outage is ongoing, keep refrigerator/freezer closed to conserve cold mass of the vaccine. Do not open units to check temperatures. Record the temperature and duration of the outage as soon as possible after the power is restored.

*If alternate storage with reliable power sources is available, transfer vaccine to that facility. Maintain the proper cold chain procedures for storage and handling.

*If you are concerned about the exposure or efficacy of any vaccine stock, do not administer it. Keep the questionable vaccine stored at the proper temperature but separate from



the other viable vaccine and contact the regional office. If the vaccine is determined to be non-viable, remember to never discard it. Put the unusable vaccine aside and wait for a return label to be sent to you. These labels are sent out on a quarterly basis, so it may take up to three months to receive one.

Flu vaccine needs to be ordered this month

It is time once again to start ordering your influenza vaccine for the 2003 flu season. This year, influenza vaccine will be shipped from GIV directly to each provider site just as other TVFC vaccine is shipped.

Start placing your orders on the September order form. Estimate the number of TVFC qualified children that will need the vaccine and then order accordingly. Providers do not have to order the entire quantity in September. You can order again in October or No-

vember if needed. Two types are available. Preservative free flu vaccine should be used for children 6 mos. through 35 mos., and flu vaccine is used for children 36 mos. and older. If the provider only writes "flu vaccine", the vaccine shipped will have preservatives in it.

Relocating Vaccine Management Staff Changes Reporting Submission Requirements

Region One is proud to announce the addition of Christine Susalski to our staff. Christine comes to us from the Dental Division at the Region 1 TDH office. Christine will assume her duties as a Public Health Technician as of September 1, 2003. She will spend some time in orientation to the TVFC program and then will start to review reports submitted by the TVFC providers in the Northern portion of Region 1.

As of October 1, 2003, providers that have submitted their reports to the TDH Canyon office, are to submit all reports and vaccine orders to Christine Susalski in the Lubbock office. There are no other changes in the reporting periods or deadlines. You may fax or mail the reports to the Lubbock office.

Fax: (806) 767-0391

Mail: Texas Department of Health
Immunization Division
1109 Kemper
Lubbock, TX 79403

Christine is excited about her new role and will be happy to assist providers with questions or problems.

TWICES and PICS Internet based programs to offer assistance to TDH and VFC Providers

TWICES and PICS are coming to TDH. Does it sound like we are speaking a foreign language? Soon these acronyms will not be foreign anymore.

Texas Wide Integrated Client Encounter System (TWICES) has now been implemented to be used as the internet based billing and reporting system for TDH and some public health sites. Beginning October 1, 2003, private providers will be offered the option of using TWICES.

Pharmacy Inventory Control System (PICS) is scheduled to roll out sometime in October for TDH. This system will be

internet based and assist providers in vaccine management. Some areas have been participating in the piloting of PICS for some time. When this program is fully functional, providers will have a choice of reporting and ordering using PICS or submitting a paper form of reports and vaccine orders.

Region 1 highly supports new technology that assists providers with reporting requirements, and subsequently improves efficiency.

“As of October 1, 2003, reports from providers in the Northern portion of Region 1 (Panhandle area) will submit all reports and vaccine orders to the TDH Lubbock office instead of Canyon.”

Immunization Workshop Draws Fifty Attendees

On August 8, 2003, the Immunization Division of TDH Region 1 presented an **“Immunization Workshop for Healthcare Professionals”**. This workshop drew fifty attendees to the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center for a day packed full of current immunization topics, changes and skills sessions.



Region 7 Immunization Division, and thanks to the time and effort of the Region 1 staff in participation in this training, the program could be offered in the West Texas area. Participants received prizes, refreshments and best of all, plenty of information.

One participant described the training as “This was great, I loved it all.”

In an effort to help providers comply with the ongoing education and train-

ing standard for pediatric practice, Region 1 strives to offer TVFC providers continuing education activities. We feel it is extremely important for providers to be kept abreast of immunization rules and regulations, vaccine management responsibilities and the TVFC program guidelines. The region 1 office offers several trainings per year. If you missed the training and would like to receive the information given, contact Christie Holder at : 767-0312

(806) 767-0312

This program was developed by the TDH

5th Dose of Dtap Becomes Mandatory in Texas

By executive order of Governor Rick Perry, on August 7, 2003, the Texas Board of Health approved emergency rules that require an additional dose of diphtheria-tetanus-acellular pertussis (Dtap) vaccine for children 3 years and 4 years of age. This order surfaces on the heels of a Texas epidemic of Pertussis with several confirmed cases



resulting in infants deaths, and the Texas Department of Health's priority of increasing the percentage of children fully vaccinated in the state of Texas.

This requirement is effective immediately for all pre-kindergarten and

kindergarten students this school year. This requirement follows the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended schedule. If providers are following the recommended schedule, children should always be in compliance with the Texas Minimum Immunization Requirements.

TVFC Toolkit Updates can be Accessed Via Website

The TVFC toolkit is to be used as a guide to the Texas Vaccines for Children program. This kit contains standardized education for providers.

It is important that the toolkit be routinely updated to reflect current guidelines, policies and procedures. The Texas Department of Health has included a section on toolkit updates in its online newsletter entitled "*The Upshot Online*".

These updated materials are available from central and regional offices of the Texas Department of Health and from

local health departments. To access the website for a review of your toolkit go to :www.tdh.state.tx.us/immunize/upshot.htm

These forms were updated in May of 2002:

1. TVFC Provider Enrollment
2. Biological Order Form (C-68)
3. Monthly Biological Order Form (C-33)
4. Number of Doses Administered (C-5)

5. Temperature Recording Form (C-105)
6. Students Booklet (6-103)

Updated in February 2002:

1. MMWR, General Recommendation on Immunizations

Updated in September 2002:

1. Minimum State Vaccine Requirements for Texas Children
2. PCV-7 VIS

See website or contact the Regional office @ 767-0312 for other updates.

Short Dated Vaccine Loss is Providers Responsibility

Providers who contact Region 1 within the designated time frame for notification of short dated vaccine (minimum 2 months before expiration, but recommend 4 months) are usually informed the we will assist with re-distribution of the vaccine if possible. Region 1 will check with local providers to inquire of their vaccine needs. If we cannot re-distribute the vaccine, we will assist you in returning it to the contract distributor.

Region one desires that providers realize that if short dated vaccine is accepted and allowed to expire, the provider who accepted the vaccine is responsible for the loss.

Be certain that you can use all the short dated vaccine that you accept from another provider in order to minimize loss.



Texas Department of Health Region 1

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Protect Texas-Vaccinate!

We're on the Web
www.ImmunizeTexas.com



TDH Publication Number:
E50-11807

The Texas Vaccines for Children program was initiated by the passage of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993. This legislation guaranteed that vaccines would be available at no cost to providers, in order to immunize children who meet the eligibility requirements. Today, there are more than 6,000 providers enrolled in Texas. Texas leads the nation in the number of uninsured and underinsured children. Over a million Texas children are on Medicaid. Many of these children are not receiving the complete series of immunizations required to protect them from vaccine-preventable diseases.

There are numerous benefits to being a TVFC provider, to the families in your practice, and to the people of Texas.

If you are not a TVFC provider, and would like to become one, contact TDH Immunization Division at:

Toll-Free: 800-252-9152

How Do I Use CASA Reports to Improve Vaccination Coverage?

Vaccines are one of the greatest public health achievements of the last century, yet only 75% of Texas children are fully immunized. Low immunization rates affect children, families, and schools.

A healthcare provider plays a significant role in helping children complete all of the necessary vaccinations.

All TVFC providers participate in a yearly site survey conducted by the Texas Medical Foundation. In this site survey, a CASA assessment is conducted. A CASA assessment can help providers understand their current vaccination coverage levels and

diagnose their immunization system delivery problems. CASA provides an extensive body of data that can be accessed and organized to suit individual practice needs.

CASA provides detailed reports on specific problems for a clinic. Specific areas that are addressed include; record-keeping and adequate documentation,

2.) whether children start their series on time, 3.) whether and when patients drop out of the system, 4.) whether recall is used effectively, 5.) whether vaccines are given simultaneously. It can also be used to identify specific vaccines or specific doses of

vaccines that are a problem for a practice.

The results of your CASA assessment are specific to your practice and should be examined closely for opportunities for improvement. If you have questions concerning ways to improve your immunization rates; simultaneous administration of vaccines; or would like the results of your CASA assessment, contact Leticia Ponciano at: 767-0346