Once your order has been processed by the NM VFC Program, vaccines will be shipped directly to your office from McKesson.

Providers will have to plan ahead with ordering, allowing time for delivery; vaccine orders may take up to three weeks to arrive at your office.

Provider office staff will have to be fully trained in handling vaccines so vaccines are properly stored immediately upon arrival to avoid vaccine loss.

Some things won’t change for providers. The NM VFC Program will still:

- Be the point of contact for providers to participate in the VFC Program and receive publicly purchased vaccine at no cost for all children 0-18 years of age.
- Receive vaccine orders from providers, and approve and submit them for processing.
- Provide technical assistance, training and education on best practices for immunization and vaccine management, and consultation and technical assistance for provider offices.
- Varicella and MMRV will continue to be shipped directly from Merck to you. Allow 4 weeks to receive these vaccines.
- Temperature logs must be faxed to your regional VFC contact person the first of each month. Temperature logs are legal documents and must be kept on site for at least 3 years. Correct temperatures must be recorded in Fahrenheit (F) only. If temperatures are out of range they must be reported to your regional VFC representative immediately.

VMBIP: A new method for distributing vaccines

By Carly Christian
New Mexico Department of Health, VFC Manager

The Centers for Disease Control is undertaking a project to centralize vaccine inventory and distribution for the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program at the national level. CDC has contracted McKesson to ship vaccine directly to providers to consolidate inventories and reduce the number of times vaccine is handled during the delivery process.

In order to participate in the national VFC Program and continue the NM VFC program, adoption of direct vaccine distribution is required. Statewide direct vaccine distribution is expected to begin December 3, 2007.

Some things will change for providers:

- Providers will be assigned an “Ordering Month and Week” schedule based on the number of doses ordered in 2006 and refrigerator capacity. In 2006, providers ordering:
  - Less than 100 doses will order “as needed”
  - 100 – 499 doses will order quarterly (every 3 months)
  - 500 – 1,999 doses will order every other month
  - 2,000+ doses will order monthly
- The Vaccine Order Form will still be faxed to the NM VFC Program, but you will order vaccine according to your site’s assigned ordering schedule.

- Once your order has been processed by the NM VFC Program, vaccines will be shipped directly to your office from McKesson.
- Providers will have to plan ahead with ordering, allowing time for delivery; vaccine orders may take up to three weeks to arrive at your office.
- Provider office staff will have to be fully trained in handling vaccines so vaccines are properly stored immediately upon arrival to avoid vaccine loss.

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VMBIP stands for Vaccine Management Business Improvement Process.
NMIC members

Honorary Chair:
First Lady Barbara Richardson

Co-Chairs:
Margy Wienbar
Norman White, MD

Executive Director:
Anna Pentler, MPH, MBA

Participating Organizations:
AARP
Aging and Long-Term Services Department
Albuquerque Public Schools
Blue Cross/Blue Shield of New Mexico
Border Health Office/BEC/NMSU
Centers for Disease Control
Doña Ana Immunization Coalition
GlaxoSmithKline Vaccines
Greater Albuquerque Immunization Network (GAIN)
Indian Health Service
La Clinica de Familia Medical Center
Lovelace
Merck Vaccine Division
Molina Healthcare, Inc.
NM Academy of Family Physicians
NM CYFD
NM Department of Health
NM Immunization Advisory Group
NM Influenza Vaccine Consortium
NM Human Services Department
NM Hospital and Health Systems
NM Medical Review Association
NM Medical Society/CPI
NM Nurses Association
NM Pediatric Society
NM Pharmaceutical Association
NM Primary Care Association
NM Public Health Association
NM School Nurses Association
NM State Department of Education
NM State PTA
Presbyterian Health Services
Rotary Clubs of New Mexico
Sanofi Pasteur
Santa Fe Immunization Coalition
Sierra County Immunization Coalition
University of New Mexico, Health Sciences Center
Villa Therese Catholic Clinic
Voices for Children
Wyeth Vaccines

Photo gallery

NMIC’s meeting held on Friday, August 24 at the Albuquerque Marriott Pyramid

Clockwise L to R from top: Amy Groom with Dr. Andrew Kroger, keynote speaker from the CDC; Drs. Susan Kellie and Lance Chilton; Sidney Kistin, Dr. Kroger, Tina Cutler and Melissa Edel; Anna Pentler with Pat Montoya; Tina Cutler and Jacque Boothe; Dr. Maggi Gallaher with Gayle Kenny; Dr. Kroger with Nanci Baldwin; Gayle Kenny; Melissa Edel with Cindy Greenberg; Angela Heisel with Dennis Peña.
The CDC recommends the influenza vaccine for the following groups:

- Children 6 months to 5 years
- Adults 50 years and older
- People over 5 with chronic health problems
- Health care workers
- Household contacts of anyone in a high-risk group
- Anyone wishing to avoid getting influenza

Principal updates and changes in recommendations from last year include:

1) Reemphasizing the importance of administering two doses of vaccine to all children aged 6 months-8 years if they have not been vaccinated previously at any time with either live, attenuated influenza vaccine (doses separated by >6 weeks) or trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (doses separated by >4 weeks), with single annual doses in subsequent years;

2) Recommending that children aged 6 months-8 years who received only one dose in their first year of vaccination receive two doses the following year, with single annual doses in subsequent years;

3) Highlighting a previous recommendation that all persons, including school-aged children, who want to reduce the risk of becoming ill with influenza or of transmitting influenza to others should be vaccinated;

4) Emphasizing that immunization providers should offer influenza vaccine and schedule immunization clinics throughout the influenza season;

5) Recommending that health-care facilities consider the level of vaccination coverage among HCP to be one measure of a patient safety quality program and implement policies to encourage HCP vaccination (e.g., obtaining signed statements from HCP who decline influenza vaccination); and


(taken from MMWR Recommendations and Reports Volume 56, No. RR-5, July 13, 2007, emphasis added)
Calendar of upcoming events

October
10/9   “Got Shots? Protect Tots!” van tour: Arrey, NM.
10/10  “Got Shots? Protect Tots!” van tour: Sunland Park.
10/18  NMIC Steering Committee meeting, 2:30-4:30.
10/18  “Got Shots? Protect Tots!” van tour: Columbus.
10/19  “Got Shots? Protect Tots!” van tour: Deming.
10/23  GAIN immunization meeting.

November
11/9   “Got Shots? Protect Tots!” van tour: Aztec.
11/15  NMIC Steering Committee meeting, 2:30-4:30.

December
12/7   NMIC full coalition meeting and fifth anniversary celebration.

Drs. Lance Chilton and Andrew Kroger with Anna Pentler. Dr. Kroger, a CDC expert on vaccine preventable diseases, presented at the Pediatric Grand Rounds on August 23 at the University of New Mexico Hospital, Bill and Barbara Richardson Pavilion.

The University of New Mexico
Health Sciences Center

New Mexico Immunization Coalition
Office of the Executive Vice President for Health Sciences
MSC09 5300
1000 Stanford Drive NE
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87131

NM Immunization Coalition News is published quarterly. Please contact Maggie June at 505-272-3032 or via email at mjune@salud.unm.edu if you have any questions or have an item to submit for the newsletter.