



Important News from the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District (SAMHD)

June 2, 2009

VFC INFORMATION UPDATE

This message will bring you update on some important VFC and Immunization related subjects.

Update on Nationwide Hepatitis B Vaccine Supply

In February 2009, both Merck and GSK experienced an inability to fill orders for pediatric Hepatitis B vaccine (HBV), resulting in backorders. CDC has released doses from its monovalent pediatric Hepatitis B vaccine stockpiles to each manufacturer to support private and public sector vaccine usage through March. Merck expects supplies of pediatric Recombivax HB® to be limited during the remainder of 2009 and does not expect to return to a full supply until some time in 2010. GSK expects to be able to meet the U.S. market demand for monovalent Hepatitis B vaccine (Pediatric Engerix-B®), and is working closely with CDC to determine how much additional monovalent Hepatitis B product can be supplied to the U.S. market during the second half of 2009. Because of this supply issue, all private and public sector orders will be managed. On the private side, the manufacturers are reviewing orders and limiting what can be ordered to keep the flow relatively constant. On the public side, SAMHD will be on a month-to-month allocation basis from CDC. As such, we ask all VFC providers to be judicious when making your orders. Do not over order. All orders will be reviewed to ensure all providers have enough vaccine for the full schedule, but may have less "cushion" than normal. CDC and SAMHD are confident that it will be possible to maintain a three-dose schedule, as long as ordering does not increase substantially as it sometimes does when concerns are raised about vaccine supply.

New Temperature Monitoring Cards and New Shipping Containers from McKesson

Starting on June 1, 2009, McKesson will be including updated temperature monitors in the VFC vaccine orders. Also included with the new temperature monitors will be information about how providers **WITH VACCINE VIABILITY CONCERNS** following receipt of an order can contact McKesson directly using a dedicated phone line. Instructions for calling this dedicated phone line are included on the updated temperature monitors (see attachments). Should providers need to contact McKesson regarding an order viability issue, they are encouraged to call this phone line as soon as possible in order to assure that McKesson receives calls within two-hours of receiving the order. Contacting SAMHD VFC Vaccine Management regarding such issues is still acceptable too. Vaccine Management should also be notified when you contact McKesson about viability issues so we can follow up on the matter.

In the last half of June, McKesson will begin shipping vaccine orders in a new box using a phased in approach. In August, when all shipments will be using the new shipping boxes. This new box has been thoroughly tested in laboratory conditions as well as real world shipping conditions and meets with approval from the CDC. The biggest change is that your providers will no longer return shipping boxes to McKesson for recycling/reuse. Therefore, the boxes no longer have pre-printed return address labels.

McKesson recommends providers keep one or two boxes for any expired or non-viable vaccine returns to McKesson. If providers need to return expired or non-viable product to McKesson, you should contact Customer Service at 1-877-822-7746, and a representative will schedule a pick up and send out a return label.

Back to School 2009-2010

As you are probably aware, several new school immunization requirements will go into effect for this coming school year starting August 1, 2009. Because of the large number of students (entering kindergarten and 7th grade) affected by the new state requirements, several of the school districts around town have either already held or have scheduled immunization events for their affected students. In addition, many of SAMHD's community health partners will be holding immunization events throughout the summer. Please keep checking the SAMHD Immunization Division website for information about upcoming events. Since many of these events could be open to the community, it might be worthwhile when you schedule your appointments to ask the parents/guardians if their child has already received their immunizations at their school or one of these other events. This will help you plan your vaccine needs for the upcoming months where your orders will be more in line with your need and you will not be ordering more doses than you need for your ordering period. Moreover, this will also help VFC meet the vaccines needs of all providers. To better assist the schools and daycares facilities in determining a child's immunization status, please ensure that your office provides the parent/guardian with the most up to date immunization record before leaving your office.

If you need additional information, please contact Kenya Wilson (207-3974) or Anthony Johnson (207-4015) at the VFC Program. For additional information about the new school immunization requirements, please visit the SAMHD Immunization Division website:

<http://www.sanantonio.gov/health/pdf/immunizations/09-10%20TX%20Immun%20Requirements.pdf>

Coming Soon to the SAMHD Immunization Division and VFC Program Web pages: *The Vaccines and Immunization Education and Training* tab will contain several options for obtaining valuable information and training for you and your staff regarding vaccines and immunization-related subjects. Some sites offer CEUs as well. *The VFC Program Blast Fax Archive* located in the VFC Program website will contain copies of important Blast Faxes that were sent to all VFC-enrolled providers. **Stay Tuned**

Save the Date!

The 2nd Annual IZSA Collaborative Provider Conference will be held July 8, 2009 at the Encino Ballroom at 3800 Commerical Avenue from 8:00A to 3:45P. See attached flyer for more details.

IMPORTANT CHANGES TO SHIPMENTS BEGINNING JUNE 22, 2009

Centers for Disease Control & Prevention Vaccines for Children Program

Boxes used to ship vaccines to providers will be changed beginning June 22, 2009. Testing has been done to ensure the new boxes will provide the same level of temperature control and protection of vaccines as the boxes being used now.

Effective June 22, 2009: You are asked to discontinue empty box returns to McKesson.

- We recommend that you **keep one or two boxes** for expired vaccine returns.
- We encourage you to **recycle the boxes through local recycling programs** and support environmentally-friendly communities.

Review this guide to read this temperature indicator.

Vaccine Temperature Monitor

A 3M MonitorMark™ Time Temperature Indicator is in this shipment to assure that your vaccines have been shipped under manufacturer-recommended conditions. The indicator shows temperature exposure only – not information about vaccine quality. This monitor must be “turned on” when you receive it. A small white tab on the left side of the monitor with word “To Activate Fold Up and Pull” has been removed. If you see this tab, please report right away.

Accepting a Vaccine Shipment

- On arrival, remove the instruction card with the 3M MonitorMark™ Time Temperature Indicator from the shipment box right away.
- Follow the guide on the back of this card to read the monitor.
- Examine the vaccines and shipping box for any signs of damage.
- **If you have any questions or concerns when reading the monitor, if the monitor is not activated or if you see damage to the package, call 877-TEMP123 (877-836-7123) or your state / local immunization program right away.**
- Store vaccines as instructed below.

Vaccine Storage Requirements

- Take the vaccines out of the shipping box immediately upon receipt.
- Remove the vaccines from the plastic bag.
- Refrigerate immediately at 35° to 46°F (2° to 8°C).
- Do not freeze or expose to freezing temperatures.

How to Read the 3M MonitorMark Time Temperature Indicator

As soon as you receive this shipment, remove the 3M MonitorMark Time Temperature Indicator and check the Index. Please note that all pictures below are examples only. Please read the monitor on the other side of the card.

For all vaccines excluding MMR:

- If the Index color is 0-2, store the vaccines as instructed and begin use.
- If the Index color is 3-5, store the vaccines as instructed and call **877-TEMP123 (877-836-7123)** or your state / local immunization program **right away** for further instruction before using



For MMR vaccines only:

- If the Index color is 0-1, store the vaccines as instructed and begin use.
- If the Index color is 2-5, store the vaccines as instructed and call **877-TEMP123 (877-836-7123)** or your state / local immunization program **right away** for further instruction before using



3M MonitorMark Time Temperature Indicator decision table:

Indicator Color	Vaccine Type	
	Vaccines (excluding MMR)	MMR
0-1	Ready for Use	
2	Ready for Use	Call 877-TEMP123 (877-836-7123) or your state / local immunization program right away
3-5	Call 877-TEMP123 (877-836-7123) or your state / local immunization program right away	

Call **877-TEMP123 (877-836-7123)** or your state / local immunization program **right away** if you have questions or concerns when reading the temperature indicator or if you see damage to the package.

Review this guide to read this temperature indicator.

Vaccine Temperature Monitor

A ColdMark™ Freeze Indicator is in this shipment to assure that your vaccines have been shipped under manufacturer-recommended conditions. The indicator shows temperature exposure only – not information about vaccine quality.

Accepting a Vaccine Shipment

- On arrival, remove the instruction card with the ColdMark Freeze Indicator from the shipment box right away.
- Follow the guide on the back of this card to read the monitor.
- Examine the vaccines and shipping box for any signs of damage.
- **If you have any questions or concerns when reading the monitor, if the monitor is not activated or if you see damage to the package, call 877-TEMP123 (877-836-7123) or your state / local immunization program right away.**
- Store vaccines as instructed below.

Vaccine Storage Requirements

- Take the vaccines out of the shipping box immediately upon receipt.
- Remove the vaccines from the plastic bag.
- Refrigerate immediately at 35° to 46°F (2° to 8°C).
- Do not freeze or expose to freezing temperatures.

How to Read the ColdMark Freeze Indicator

As soon as you receive this shipment, remove the ColdMark Freeze Indicator and check the ColdMark bulb. Please note that pictures below are examples only. Please read the monitor on the other side of this card.

- If the bulb is clear and colorless, as shown here, store the vaccines as instructed and begin use.



- If the bulb is violet in color, as shown below, store the vaccines as instructed and call **877-TEMP123 (877-836-7123)** or your state / local immunization program right away for further instruction before using.



ColdMark Freeze Indicator decision table:

Bulb Color	Vaccine Type	
	MMR, ActHIB, LAIV	All other vaccine
Clear and colorless	Ready for Use	
Violet	Ready for Use	Call 877-TEMP123 (877-836-7123) or your state / local immunization program <u>right away</u>

Call **877-TEMP123 (877-836-7123)** or your state / local immunization program right away if you have questions or concerns when reading the temperature indicator or if you see damage to the package.



Immunize San Antonio! **IZSA**
Bexar County's Immunization Collaborative

Save the Date!!!

The IZSA Collaborative

Is proud to announce the

2nd Annual IZSA Provider Conference
July 8, 2009
Encino Ballroom
3800 Commercial Avenue
San Antonio, Texas
8:00 am – 3:45 pm

Topics planned:

2009-2010 Changes in School Requirements
Vaccines for Children Program
Updates on H1N1 Influenza
Vaccine-Preventable Diseases & Available Vaccines

For more information, please contact Audrey Munoz @ (210) 207-6917,
Miryam Gregory @ (210) 207-2865, or Wilma Camacho @ 210-207-2862.



METRO HEALTH
SAN ANTONIO'S PUBLIC HEALTH TEAM
IMMUNIZATION DIVISION

