



Immunization E-Letter

Indiana State Department of Health

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Immunization Program

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When to Order PPSV23

Pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPSV23) is now available to order through the Indiana Immunization program. However, PPSV23 should be ordered per patient when needed, and not as a vaccine kept in stock daily.

[Click here for full story.](#)

Wasted or Expired Vaccine Instructions

McKesson Specialty Distribution accepts the return of all publicly purchased nonviable (wasted or expired) vaccine from providers, which also includes influenza vaccine and direct-ship vaccines, and arranges for return of nonviable vaccine to McKesson Specialty Distribution at no cost to the provider.

[Click here for full story.](#)

Vaccine Storage Equipment

The thermometer should be placed in the center of the compartment away from the coils, walls, floor, and fan in order to obtain a true reading of the temperature.

[Click here for full story.](#)

Upcoming Events [Click here list of events.](#)

Program Announcements

Registration is now open for the Epidemiology & Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases Comprehensive Training course is now open!

Click [here](#) to complete the registration online in Adobe Reader, or print the attached PDF and return by fax.

Staffing Update

The ISDH Immunization program has experienced a several staffing changes.

Alex ThurdeKoos, Fraud/Abuse & Adolescent/Adult Coordinator, has been promoted to Deputy Director of the Immunization program. This position is in addition to the previously announced Deputy Director position being held by Penny Lewis. Alex will supervise the AFIX Field Representatives. Congratulations, Alex!

Sheila Lauck, Administration Assistant, has been promoted to the VFC Customer Service position, effective July 27. Sheila has the skills and experience to ensure that superior customer service will be maintained for our vaccine providers. Congratulations, Sheila!

Adam Younce, CHIRP Support, has also departed the program. We would like to thank Adam for his many years of service to the Immunization Program and wish him all the best with his future career.

Order Form Clarification

Some clarification on filling out your VFC order form. **Column 1.** Put in the number of doses of each vaccine you will need for 30 days. **Column 2.** Put the doses on hand of any of the listed vaccines you have in stock, whether you are ordering that vaccine or not. **Column 3.** Put the number of doses that you administered of any of the listed vaccines whether you are ordering that vaccine or not. **Column 4.** Enter doses up to 5 of any listed vaccine that was wasted during the administration process or accidentally. Bigger losses should be recorded on an incident report (example: left out of fridge, power outages etc.) If you need help please contact our vaccine ordering staff at (800) 701-0704.

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When to Order PPSV23

Pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPSV23) is now available to order through the Indiana Immunization program. However, PPSV23 should be ordered per patient when needed, and not as a vaccine kept in stock daily. PPSV23 is recommended for persons 2-64 years of age who have one of more of the following long-term health problems:

- Anyone 2 through 64 years of age who has a long-term health problem such as: heart disease, lung disease, sickle cell disease, diabetes, alcoholism, cirrhosis, leaks of cerebrospinal fluid or cochlear implant.
- Anyone 2 through 64 years of age who has a disease or condition that lowers the body's resistance to infection, such as: Hodgkin's disease, lymphoma or leukemia, kidney failure, multiple myeloma, nephrotic syndrome, HIV infection or AIDS, damaged spleen, or no spleen, organ transplant.
- Anyone 2 through 64 years of age who is taking a drug or treatment that lowers the body's resistance to infection, such as, long-term steroid use, certain cancer drugs, or radiation therapy.
- Any adult 19 through 64 years of age who is a smoker or has asthma.

PPSV may be less effective for some people, especially those with lower resistance to infection. However, these people should still be vaccinated, because they are more likely to have serious complications if they develop get pneumococcal disease. Children who often get ear infections, sinus infections, or other upper respiratory diseases, but who are otherwise healthy, do not need to receive PPSV because it is not effective against those conditions.

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Wasted or Expired Vaccine Instructions

McKesson Specialty Distribution accepts the return of all publicly purchased nonviable (wasted or expired) vaccine from providers, which also includes influenza vaccine and direct-ship vaccines. In addition, McKesson arranges for return of nonviable vaccines at no cost to the provider.

With the June 22, 2009, implementation of the new shipping box, providers will no longer return empty boxes to McKesson Specialty Distribution. New shipping boxes do not have pre-printed return address labels.

When nonviable product needs to be returned to McKesson Specialty Distribution, providers must contact ISDH at (800) 701-0704 to request a return label, and then you will receive the return label via the U.S. Postal Service.

Upon receipt of the return label, the provider must contact ISDH, and then ISDH will contact McKesson Specialty Customer Care to coordinate the pick-up service. The carrier will be dispatched within 1 to 2 days following the request.

Providers may NOT contact McKesson Specialty Customer Care to coordinate pick up of wasted/expired vaccine. However, if the provider has a regularly scheduled UPS pick up at their facility, it is not necessary for ISDH to contact McKesson to schedule the pick up; the provider may hand the labeled box of wasted/expired vaccine to the UPS driver. Providers should remember to include a copy of the wasted/return form in the returns box; Send a copy of the waste/return form to ISDH; and keep a copy for your records.

Providers should return spoiled or expired vaccines, in their original vials or pre-filled syringes only. Providers should **never** return used syringes, with or without needles; broken vials; wasted products such as a syringe that was drawn up but not used; multidose vial from which some doses have already been withdrawn; IG, HBIG, PPD; or expired diluent. These products are not available for federal excise tax credit and should be disposed of properly by the provider, with any documentation as required by your program.

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Vaccine Storage Equipment

Thermometer Placement

The thermometer should be placed in the center of the compartment away from the coils, walls, floor, and fan in order to obtain a true reading of the temperature. In the refrigerator, the thermometer should be placed on the middle shelf, adjacent to the vaccine, or hanging down from the upper shelf. In the freezer, the thermometer should be suspended from the ceiling of the compartment or placed on a box or some other item so that it is in the middle of the compartment off the floor. If the thermometer indicates a temperature outside the recommended range, check that the thermometer is appropriately situated.

Thermometer Maintenance and Recertification

Some thermometers require batteries. If you use one of these, have a supply of extra batteries on hand.

Certified calibrated thermometers require periodic recertification and recalibration against reference thermometers in order to remain accurate. Contact the manufacturer for instructions regarding recalibration procedures. When choosing a certified calibrated thermometer, be sure to consider the cost and frequency of required recalibration. Recalibration costs will vary by manufacturer, model, and type of thermometer.

The National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases recommends adhering to the recalibration schedule recommended by the manufacturer. Graphing thermometers, with their moving parts and frequent pen/paper changes, are likely to become less accurate with time; compliance with the manufacturer's recalibration schedule would be optimal. Digital thermometers may also become less accurate with time; however, these are relatively inexpensive, and may be less expensive to replace than to recalibrate. Bottle-type thermometers, which have no mechanical or electronic parts, are most likely to remain accurate for extended periods, and may be less expensive to replace than to recalibrate. However, bottle-type thermometers may be rendered inaccurate if the liquid column separates.

If the certified calibrated thermometer indicates an out-of-range temperature and if it is properly positioned assume it is accurate and take immediate steps to safeguard the vaccine. Once the vaccine is safely stored under proper conditions, the accuracy of the thermometer can be checked. However, always check other causes of inappropriate storage temperatures first.

Excerpt from the CDC Vaccine Storage & Handling Toolkit. Full S&H Toolkit can be downloaded at http://www2a.cdc.gov/vaccines/ed/shtoolkit/pages/storage_equipment.htm.

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Upcoming Events

July 31, 2009; 8:30am - 3:30pm (EST); Immunizations from A to Z Plus

Deaconess Auditorium, Evansville, IN [Click here for registration form.](#)

August 7, 2009; 8:30am - 3:00pm (EST); Immunizations from A to Z Plus

Harrison County Hospital, Corydon, IN [Click here for registration form.](#)

August 11, 2009; 9:30am - 11:30am; CHIRP User Group Meeting

Parkview Noble Hospital, Noble 1, First Floor, 401 North Sawyer Road, Kendallville, IN

August 11, 2009; 1:30pm - 3:00pm; Introduction to CHIRP Training

Parkview Noble Hospital, Noble 1, First Floor, 401 North Sawyer Road, Kendallville, IN

August 25-26, 2009

Epidemiology & Vaccine Preventable Disease Training Course

Presented by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention

Renaissance Hotel, Carmel, IN

Click [here](#) for registration information!

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Categories of Immunization Messages:

E-Alert conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

E-Advisory provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

E-Update provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

E-Letter traditional newsletter; distributed every other week with new information and educational articles.
