TO: All Users of State Supplied Vaccines

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SUBJECT: Human Papillomavirus Vaccine (HPV) now Available

The primary purpose of this communication is to notify you of the availability of human papillomavirus vaccine for your VFC-eligible population. This vaccine is to protect individuals against the most common cause of cervical cancer and of genital warts.

**Human Papillomavirus Vaccine (HPV)**

Human papillomavirus is the most commonly sexually transmitted infection in the United States. More than 20 million men and women in the U.S. are currently actively infected, with 6.2 million new infections occurring each year. HPV is most common in young men and women who are in their late teens and early 20’s. In June 2006, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended that a newly licensed human papillomavirus vaccine (HPV) be routinely administered to females 11-12 years of age. The ACIP recommendation also allows for vaccination of girls beginning at nine years old as well as vaccination for females 13-26 years of age.

HPV is the leading cause of cervical cancer in women. The licensure of this vaccine enables teenaged girls and women up to 26 years of age to be protected against HPV types 6, 11, 16 and 18, accounting for about 70% of cervical cancer cases and 90% of genital warts. The vaccine is licensed by Merck under the brand name Gardasil. HPV vaccine should be administered as a three dose series with the second dose administered 2 months after the first, and the last dose given four months later (0, 2 months, 6 months). For maximum benefit, the vaccine should be administered before the onset of sexual activity. However, those females who are already sexually active can also benefit from being vaccinated. The vaccine is only licensed for females. More information on HPV can be found at: [http://www.cdc.gov/nip/vaccine/hpv/hpv-faqs.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nip/vaccine/hpv/hpv-faqs.htm)

Beginning December 1st the Immunization Program is making available HPV vaccine for VFC-eligible adolescent females 9-12 years of age, with emphasis on routine vaccination of 11-12 year olds. Eventually, we hope the VFC Program will have enough vaccine to enable catch-up vaccination of VFC-eligible females 13-18 years old. As a reminder, VFC eligibility is defined as follows:

- Medicaid enrolled
- No health insurance
- American Indian or Alaskan Native
In addition, those individuals who are underinsured (have health insurance that does not cover the cost of immunizations) can be referred to a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) to be immunized with VFC-supplied vaccine.

The vaccine comes packaged in 10 single dose vials per box and must be refrigerated at 35-46 degrees Fahrenheit. This vaccine is very expensive ($96 per dose on the VFC contract), so please be sure to follow the proper storage and handling indications. In the next few weeks, you will be receiving new vaccine order forms in the mail (VOF). When you receive your new supply, please discard any old forms. The new VOF’s will have space on them for both HPV and FluMist.

We have included the HPV vaccine information statement in both English and Spanish as well as the updated Vaccine Eligibility Criteria for state supplied vaccines with the corresponding CPT Codes. As always if you have any questions, please contact the Immunization Program at (860) 509-7929.