

**PLEASE COPY THIS FOR ALL HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS  
IN YOUR PRACTICE**

**TO:** All Users of State Supplied Vaccines

**FROM:** Mick Bolduc  
VFC Coordinator

**DATE:** February 28, 2007

**SUBJECT:** Change in Vaccine Distribution

For the first time the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is implementing a national, centralized approach for vaccine distribution. Using a national, centralized distribution system will save time, ensure that vaccines arrive safely, enable the direct delivery of vaccines to providers, and allow CDC to respond more quickly to public health crises. On September 12, 2006 CDC selected McKesson Speciality as the national vaccine distribution vendor.

Specific information about McKesson can be found at: [www.mckessonspecialty.com](http://www.mckessonspecialty.com)

**Forthcoming Changes**

As you are aware for the past 14 months the Connecticut Immunization Program has been using General Injectable Vaccines (GIV) based in Bastion, Virginia to direct ship vaccines to our providers. We are scheduled to switch over to McKesson on June 11, 2007. Your vaccine orders for March and April will continue to be processed as normal. In May we will be giving you some additional vaccines above and beyond your normal amounts. This extra vaccine will serve as a cushion to get you through the initial start up period with McKesson. In addition to the switch in distributors, CDC is also requiring that states move to a Tiered Ordering Frequency (TOF).

Tiered Order Frequency is a provider ordering schedule that establishes the lowest total cost of distribution, by identifying the number of orders providers should place each year. The goal of TOF is to balance shipping costs with inventory & spoilage costs. **Under TOF providers will only be able to order at certain times of the year: high volume users will continue to order every month, medium volume users will move to a bi-monthly schedule ordering vaccines every other month, and low volume users will order on a quarterly basis.** A provider's ordering schedule (monthly, bi-monthly, quarterly) has been determined by the amount of doses distributed to that office during calendar year 2006. The ordering schedule for your individual office is enclosed. Please adhere to this schedule from this point forward. This schedule covers the time frame from March 2007-February 2009.

The Immunization Program realizes this is a major change, for both you and us. We anticipate that, as with any new system, there will be some growing pains. We will try our best to lessen any problems that may arise from the change to McKesson and the Tiered Order Frequency. With these changes providers may want to take this opportunity to figure out the vaccine capacity of the refrigerator and freezer units they currently are using. Enclosed is a CDC

produced document that can be used to help determine whether the units you currently have can adequately meet your vaccine needs. **The document is for your benefit only-it does not need to be filled out and sent back to the Immunization Program.**

If you have any questions about these changes or wish to discuss aspects about the new system, please feel free to contact me at (860) 509-7929.