October 4, 2012

RE: The Connecticut Vaccine Program

Dear Healthcare Professional:

This past summer, the Connecticut General Assembly enacted Public Act 12 – 1 (to be codified at Conn. Gen. Stat. § 19a – 7f) into state law. The new law requires that, in most cases, by January 1, 2013 and thereafter healthcare providers who administer pediatric vaccines use vaccine that the state will provide to you free of charge.

The Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) is responsible for implementing the new law through what is called the Connecticut Vaccine Program (CVP). The CVP includes the existing federal Vaccines for Children program. It uses a combination of federal and state funds to purchase vaccines obtained through a contract the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention manages with vaccine manufacturers. Through the CVP, three new vaccines will now be available to Connecticut children – pneumococcal conjugate, influenza, and hepatitis A.

If you administer pediatric vaccines (pediatric refers to a child less than 19 years of age), it is important that you enroll promptly so that you can obtain CVP-supplied vaccine as required by state law.

Enrolling in the CVP only requires a few steps. Please visit our website at www.ct.gov/dph/cvp to obtain all the information you need to participate, including enrollment forms, an extensive FAQ and other important information. Providers who are part of a group practice only need to submit one enrollment form for each practice site administering pediatric vaccinations. Please contact Mick Bolduc in the DPH Immunizations Program at (860) 509-7929 or michael.bolduc@ct.gov if you have questions or need assistance.

Our goal, like yours, is to prevent vaccine-preventable diseases. We realize that the CVP may not have the same “look and feel” of the system that you used when ordering required childhood vaccines through the private sector. Working together, we can make this an expeditious transition. Thank you for your attention to this new law, and your commitment to protecting the health and safety of Connecticut’s children.

Yours truly,

Vincent Sacco, MS  Matthew Cartter, MD, MPH
Immunization Program Manager  State Epidemiologist