

**Blastfax**

**2010 Recommended Immunization Schedules Released**

The new schedules in various formats may be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/schedules/default.htm>.

Changes from the 2009 schedules are listed below.

- The statement concerning use of combination vaccines in the introductory paragraph has been changed to reflect the revised ACIP recommendation on this issue.
- The last dose in the inactivated poliovirus vaccine series is now recommended to be administered on or after the 4th birthday and at least 6 months since the previous dose. In addition, if 4 doses are administered prior to age 4 years an additional (5th) dose should be administered at age 4 through 6 years.
- The hepatitis A footnote has been revised to allow vaccination of children older than 23 months for whom immunity against hepatitis A is desired.
- Revaccination with meningococcal conjugate vaccine is now recommended for children who remain at increased risk of meningococcal disease after 3 years (if the first dose was administered at age 2 through 6 years) or after 5 years (if the first dose was administered at age 7 years or older).
- Footnotes for human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine have been modified to include the availability of and recommendations for bivalent HPV vaccine, and a permissive recommendation for administration of quadrivalent HPV vaccine to males aged 9 through 18 years to reduce the likelihood of acquiring genital warts.

**Important Information from MedImmune Regarding Influenza A (H1N1) Expiration Dating**

Some lots of MedImmune's H1N1 influenza vaccine have a shorter expiration period than that indicated on the label. Please be aware that based on ongoing stability testing, MedImmune has shortened the shelf life of 12 lots of H1N1 vaccine from 18 weeks to 16 weeks.

These 12 lots were originally labeled with expiration dates from January 29 - February 22, 2010. For simplicity, the manufacturer decided to change the expiration date on all 12 lots to **January 15, 2010**. The lot numbers for these 12 lots are inclusive of those between 500778P and 500799P.

Any provider that received these lots directly from McKesson should have received a notice on Friday, January 8, 2010 explaining the change in expiration date with instructions on what to do with unused H1N1 vaccine doses in these lots after January 15, 2010. If your practice received and then transferred any of the referenced lot numbers to another provider, please be sure to share this information with them.

Also, please be aware that for providers managing their inventory in GRITS, the expiration date has been automatically updated for the lot numbers in question.

**Return of Vaccines Supplied by the Georgia VFC Program**

If you have nonviable vaccines that need to be returned, please call the VFC Program office at (404) 657-5013 telling them of the situation and request a UPS mailing label.

Box up the vaccine to be returned, place the label on the box, and give it to the UPS driver the next time s/he is in your office. There is no need to schedule a pickup. If you would specifically like a pickup scheduled, please call the VFC Program office.

Returns do not have to be sent every month - you are welcome to send returns every three to six months if that is more convenient. Until you are ready to send the return, remember to clearly label wasted or expired vaccine "DO NOT USE" and store it securely and outside of the refrigerator so that it is not accidentally administered.

**What should be included in the return**

Full vials of unused vaccine  
Appropriate padding to protect vials from breaking  
Federal Return Form (also fax to the VFC office)

**What should not be included in the return**

Needles or syringes with needles (vaccine that has been drawn into a syringe should be wasted on-site, not returned)  
Broken or partially used vials (including partially used multi-dose vials)  
Paperwork or other reports intended for VFC  
Any other objects

*For questions or concerns regarding this blastfax or any other immunization information, please contact the Chapter's Immunization Coordinator, Mike Chaney at (404) 881-5094 or [mchaney@gaaap.org](mailto:mchaney@gaaap.org).*