

BLASTFAX

**Vaccine Management Business Improvement Project
(VMBIP)**

In October 2007 and again in January 2008, blast faxes were sent to notify you of a change in the distribution system for vaccines received from the Vaccines for Children Program. This change will affect Georgia's VFC providers as of **April 28, 2008**. The CDC has launched the Vaccine Management Business Improvement Project (VMBIP) in order to improve vaccine management at federal, state, and local levels.

Stated benefits of the transition to centralized vaccine distribution include the creation of a national vaccine 'stockpile' that will improve response to public health crises related to disease outbreaks, vaccine shortages and disruption of vaccine supply, and reduced wastage (the new shipper will use returnable coolers, not disposable Styrofoam coolers). McKesson, Inc. has been awarded the distribution contract, and Georgia's vaccines will be packaged and shipped from their Memphis, Tennessee warehouse. **Once Georgia transitions to the new system, the State warehouse will close. There will be no capacity for the VFC Program to stock or ship any vaccines.**

VFC providers will continue to submit Comprehensive Reports to the Georgia VFC Program each month. The VFC Program will continue to process reports and handle questions. Again, the major change is that vaccine will ship from McKesson's Tennessee warehouse instead of the State warehouse in Atlanta. The observable change is that, depending on your storage capacity, your shipments may come monthly, bimonthly, or quarterly.

In February 2008, the VFC Program sent notifications to providers of this change with a form entitled, ***Vaccine for Children Shipping Frequency Request***. This form was to be completed and returned to the VFC office by March 21st, 2008. Please make sure it has been submitted.

Because of this change, VFC will not have as much control over ship-out dates. Both regular and emergency shipments will take longer. Same and next-day shipments will no longer be possible. Also, because shipments will come from McKesson, VFC will not be able to give you an expected delivery date. It will be **absolutely imperative** that you ensure the accuracy of your shipping instructions (days and hours of business) on the annual Provider Profile Updates you receive from the VFC Program. Also, notify the Georgia VFC Office of any changes throughout the year. Your facility's shipping information will be communicated to McKesson electronically. The VFC Program will continue to process and enter orders, but the McKesson team will be responsible for packing and shipping the actual vaccine.

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. You may also refer questions to the Georgia Immunization Program at (404) 657-3158.