

**BLASTFAX**

**Reminder: Influenza Vaccines Estimates are due to the VFC Program by May 8, 2009**

On April 6, 2009 the Georgia VFC Program office sent providers a letter requesting the amount and type of influenza vaccine they will need for the 2009-2010 flu season. The purpose of the request is to estimate influenza vaccine needs for VFC eligible patients. The information will be used to determine how much influenza vaccine the VFC Program will order from CDC. In addition to assuring a sufficient vaccine supply, there is also an emphasis on minimizing wastage. Excess flu vaccine cannot be used the following season and cannot be returned. In the case of VFC vaccine, it also cannot be distributed to non-VFC eligible children or to adults. It is critical for the VFC Program to obtain the best possible estimate of need.

The 2009-2010 Influenza Vaccine Estimate Form was sent as part of the initial mailing. In case it has been misplaced, the form is being sent as part of this blastfax. The form must be completed for each facility expecting to receive a shipment of VFC influenza vaccine during the 2009-2010 flu season. Forms are due at the VFC office by mailing or faxing no later than May 8, 2009. A supply of influenza vaccine cannot be guaranteed for providers who do not complete and return this form or submit it after the deadline. Your facility's submitted claims for payment or influenza vaccine usage data from prior years may be helpful in estimating your vaccine needs.

If you do not wish to receive VFC influenza vaccine, please do NOT return the form. Requests for influenza vaccine submitted to the VFC office after the deadline will be added to a waiting list.

**Important:** Estimates should be as realistic as possible. For example, 100% uptake would not be a realistic expectation in any practice. Even 70% may be considered too high. Look at uptake (actual doses administered) in prior years for guidance. For the most updated information regarding whom to vaccinate, when to vaccinate, and the dosing schedule, please go to the CDC's website dedicated to Seasonal Influenza at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/>.

If you have questions, please contact the VFC Program at (404) 657- 5013 or outside of metro Atlanta area at (800) 848-3868.

**Mark Your Calendar for an Immunization Teleconference  
Tuesday, May 26, 2009, 12:30pm – 1:30pm**

Join your colleagues by telephone for a live presentation and discussion with:

***Harry Keyserling, MD, FAAP***  
***Chair - GA Chapter Infectious Disease Committee***

Topics will include a discussion of HPV vaccine coverage rates and the appropriate use of the ACIP recommended schedule of all vaccines. Registration information will be distributed soon.

*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).*