

BLASTFAX

Additional Flu Vaccine Available Through the Georgia VFC Program

The Georgia Vaccines for Children program has a surplus of influenza vaccine available for **any VFC-eligible child aged 4 through 18 years old**. If you would like to order additional vaccine for this population, please contact VFC at (404) 657-5013 or (800) 848-3868. Unfortunately, there is not a surplus of influenza vaccine available at this time for children aged three and younger.

GRITS to Identify Children Who Lack Doses of Pneumococcal Vaccine

In an attempt to increase the immunization coverage rate for pneumococcal vaccine, the Georgia Immunization Program will be utilizing the functionality in GRITS to identify infants and toddlers who are not currently up to date. Entitled, "Call To Keep Up Initiative", the rationale for the initiative is shown below.

- The 2006 National Immunization Survey shows Georgia below the national average for the 3rd and the 4th doses of pneumococcal vaccine. The National average is 87.0% and 68.4% for the 3rd and 4th doses. Georgia's percentages are 81.6% and 66.6% respectively.
- Children <5 years of age enrolled in child care centers, Pre-K or Head Start must be age-appropriately immunized against pneumococcal disease. The number of doses is dependent on the age of the child at the time the vaccine series was started and on the child's current age. The functionality in GRITS allows for this determination.
- Georgia has the 4th highest immunization rate for the 4:3:1:3:3:1 series complete. Currently, pneumococcal vaccine is not included in that series but once it is, the lower immunization rate for pneumococcal vaccine could pull the previous high ranking down.
- This initiative also allows for the entire immunization status of infants and children to be reviewed and updated.

The first filter of 8-9 month olds has identified approximately 7,300 children who need to receive at least one dose of pneumococcal vaccine. A postcard will be mailed out and will be followed up with an automated phone message.

Please make all staff aware of this initiative as they may receive calls from parents/guardians requesting this vaccine. We will keep you abreast of this initiative as it moves forward.

Georgia VFC Program Holiday Shipping Schedule

Please be aware of the following holiday shipping schedule from the Georgia Vaccines For Children Program:

- **Thanksgiving:** Vaccines will not be shipped on November 21st, 22nd or 23rd
- **Christmas:** Vaccines will be delivered through Friday December 21st (last shipping day: Thursday, December 20th)
- The Pharmacy will be closed from December 24th – January 1st
- Shipments will resume on Wednesday, January 2nd

The VFC Program Office will be closed during the following days:

- December 24th-25th
- January 1, 2008

The fax lines (800) 372-3627 and (404) 657-5736 will be available 24 hours a day

CHANGES TO YOUR OFFICE HOURS DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON SHOULD BE REPORTED TO THE VFC PROGRAM IMMEDIATELY

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.