



The Philadelphia Immunization Program Newsletter

The Philadelphia Department of Public Health
Division of Disease Control

November 2005

Web-based KIDS Registry to debut in 2006

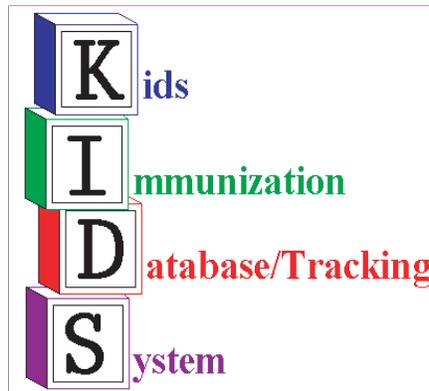
The Philadelphia KIDS Registry, the backbone of the city's immunization program, has collected information about childhood immunizations since 1992. This population-based registry houses over 4 million immunizations for more than 377,000 children. However, until now, this information was not readily accessible to pediatric providers and registry users serving the children of Philadelphia. ***This is about to change.***

In 2006, the KIDS Registry will be available via the Internet allowing users easy access to up-to-date immunization information for every child in Philadelphia.

This web-based registry initiative was launched by the Immunization Program in order to refine the way immunization data is collected, tracked, and analyzed. The growing presence of the Internet in medical practices, coupled with national initiatives to increase electronic medical records, has made the transition to a web-based platform a natural progression for the registry.

The KIDS Registry web server communicates with users through secured encrypted web pages in real time, without delays.

In addition to easier access, the KIDS Registry will offer providers a range of capabilities that will help keep



children on schedule for their immunizations.

Any provider participating in the VFC program is eligible to become an authorized user of the KIDS Registry. The Immunization Program will continue to update providers as we transition to the new platform. Once the registry is online, staff will be available to provide trainings and technical assistance. More information on the new KIDS Registry will be included in the January newsletter.

Access to the Web-Based KIDS Registry will offer providers:

The most accurate immunization data available for children in Philadelphia.

The ability to quickly search for patient history using multiple criteria and intelligent matching.

Best practices recommendations based on the ACIP schedule.

Vaccine inventory management through communication with VACMAN.

Reminder/recall capabilities.

Information about minimum intervals between vaccinations.

The ability to print school immunization records.

The ability to record Vaccine Adverse Reactions (VAERS).

Extensive registry help and tutorial information.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE KIDS REGISTRY, PLEASE CONTACT:

Michael Eberhart, KIDS Registry Coordinator
(215) 685-6603 or Michael.Eberhart@phila.gov

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ISSUE

FLU VACCINE IS STILL AVAILABLE FOR VFC PROVIDERS. SEE PAGE 4 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

New ACIP recommendations and new vaccines, learn more on Page 3.

The Philadelphia VFC Program moves to 3rd-party distribution

In order to deliver VFC vaccines in a more timely manner, the Philadelphia VFC Program has contracted with General Injectables and Vaccines, Inc. (GIV) for vaccine distribution starting January 1, 2006. GIV will take responsibility for all facets of vaccine distribution including: storage, processing orders, packing, quality assurance, labeling, and shipping.

The transition to GIV will make the VFC vaccine distribution process more efficient. Vaccine orders will be shipped Monday through Wednesday via UPS or FedEx. By shipping early in the week, deliveries will be guaranteed to arrive by Friday; this time frame allows GIV to accommodate any unsuccessful delivery attempts that might occur.

Information on how this will affect the ordering process will be sent out with the new VFC Provider Handbook.

Look for a new VFC Handbook in late December 2005.

IMMUNIZATION RESOURCES

The CDC National Immunization Program
www.cdc.gov/nip

The Vaccine Education Center
The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
www.vaccine.chop.edu

The Immunization Action Coalition
www.immunize.org

The American Academy of Pediatrics
PA Chapter
www.paaap.org

A Quick Look at VFC

What is the Vaccines for Children Program?

The Vaccines for Children (VFC) program guarantees vaccine purchase and supply to all states, territories, and the District of Columbia for use by participating providers. These vaccines are given to eligible children without vaccine cost to the provider. All routine childhood vaccines recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) are available through this program.

VFC saves parents and providers out-of-pocket expenses for vaccine purchases and provides cost-savings to states through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) vaccine contracts. This results in lower vaccine prices and assures that all states pay the same contract prices.

What are the benefits of VFC?

VFC allows providers to administer necessary vaccines to uninsured children and others who are unable to get recommended vaccinations without financial assistance. Moreover, this is done without burdening the provider with any additional costs.

Why do we need the VFC Program?

The VFC program reduces cost as a barrier to vaccination and enables better access to health care. Many children are not vaccinated because their parents do not have health insurance, or their health insurance does not cover vaccinations. The risk of serious illness or even death from vaccine-preventable diseases is far greater for these children. However, for the many who qualify for the no-cost vaccines provided through the VFC program, this barrier to immunization is no longer a problem.

Which patients are eligible for the VFC program?

Children, from birth through 18 years of age, who meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Medicaid Eligible
- Uninsured
- American Indian or Alaskan Native
- Underinsured*

* A patient who has health insurance that does not cover vaccines. (These children should receive VFC vaccines at federally qualified health centers or rural health centers.)

Vaccine Updates

ACIP Recommends Use of Tdap in place of Td for Adolescents and Adults

In June 2005, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted to recommend the routine use of Tdap in adolescents aged 11-18 years of age in place of the administration of a tetanus diphtheria toxoid (Td) vaccine. Boostrix® (GlaxoSmithKline) was licensed in May 2005 and is indicated for use in adolescents 10-18 years of age.

In October, the ACIP recommended that adults 19 to 64 years of age be vaccinated with ADACEL™ (Sanofi Pasteur), the newly licensed adult booster tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (Tdap) vaccine. Under this new ACIP recommendation, the Tdap vaccine replaces the currently recommended tetanus-diphtheria (Td) vaccine that serves as the adult booster.

The Philadelphia VFC program has both Boostrix® and ADACEL™ in stock. Please use the enclosed *VFC Order Form* to request Tdap for your practice.

ACIP Expands Hepatitis A Vaccination Recommendation for Children

In October the ACIP issued a universal recommendation for hepatitis A vaccination of children. This new recommendation calls for vaccination with a two-dose series to begin between 1 and 2 years of age; the recommendation will be integrated into the routine childhood vaccination schedule beginning in 2006. This replaces the 1999 recommendation for vaccination of only those children living in areas identified as having high rates of hepatitis A.

This recommendation follows the FDA's approval to lower the age limit for the use of both Vaqta®, Merck's pediatric hepatitis A vaccine and Havrix®, GlaxoSmithKline's pediatric hepatitis A vaccine.

Both vaccines may now be used in children ages 12 months and older; previously the vaccines were indicated only for children two years of age and older.

The Philadelphia VFC program has not yet received hepatitis A vaccine. However, VFC providers will be notified as soon as vaccine is available.

Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Varicella (MMRV)

MMRV, brand name PROQUAD® (Merck), has been approved by the ACIP for the vaccination of children age 12 months to 12 years. MMRV is not indicated for vaccination of children less than one year of age. MMRV should not be administered for the second dose of MMR *except* when a dose of varicella is also indicated *or* if no MMR is available at the time the second dose of MMR is indicated.

The Philadelphia VFC program has not yet received MMRV. However, VFC providers will be notified as soon as vaccine is available.

A Look Ahead: Status of Future Vaccines

Human Papillomavirus (HPV)

- Gardasil™ (Merck)
- Cervarix™ (GlaxoSmithKline)

As of November 2005, both vaccine manufacturers have presented promising phase III clinical trial data on their respective vaccines.

It is expected that a Biologics License Application (BLA) for each vaccine will be submitted to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) late 2005/early 2006.

Rotavirus

ROTATEQ® (Merck)

Merck submitted a BLA for the new rotavirus vaccine in April 2005. The application is currently under review by the FDA.

News from the Philadelphia Immunization Coalition (PIC)

The Philadelphia Immunization Coalition (PIC), a new non-profit organization, is working in collaboration with providers, community advocates, and the Immunization Program to promote immunizations in Philadelphia.

The November PIC meeting featured a lecture by Dr. Paul Offit on upcoming vaccines, and commentary by Dr. Barbara Watson on immunization coverage in Philadelphia.

The next meeting is:
January 25, 2006 at 9am
The Granary Associates Office
411 North 20th Street
Philadelphia, PA

This meeting will feature a presentation on: "Educating health-care professionals about immunizations: What is being done?" by Charlotte Moser of the Children's Hospital Vaccine Education Center and Amy Wishner from the American Academy of Pediatrics.

For more information, call Karl Heath at 215-685-6841.

Keep an eye out for PIC's Immunization Workshop coming in April 2006.

Influenza vaccinations are recommended through December

While the best time to get vaccinated against the flu is from October through November, it is critical to continue vaccinating children against influenza beyond this limited time frame. **The Philadelphia VFC Program urges providers to continue offering VFC flu vaccine to the following populations:**

-Children aged six through 23 months

-Children and adolescents aged two through 18 years with a chronic medical condition

-Household contacts and out-of-home care givers of children less than six months of age

-Adolescent females less than 19 years of age who will be pregnant during the flu season

VFC still has Fluzone in 10-dose vials (with preservative) and Fluzone in 10-pack syringes (without preservative) for distribution. Please use the enclosed *VFC Order Form* to request additional flu vaccine.

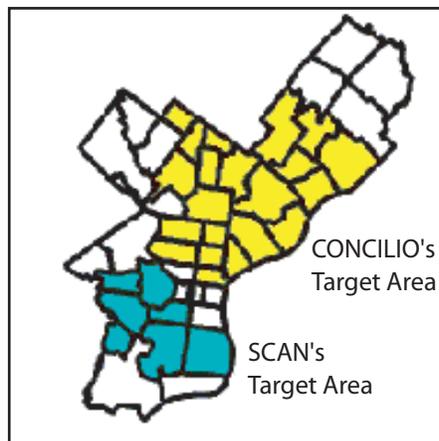
The Immunization Program also encourages adults with chronic health conditions and those over the age of 50 to get a flu shot this season. Please use the enclosed poster to educate this population about the importance of late-season flu shots.

Philadelphia residents not part of the VFC program can get more information about citywide community flu clinics by calling the flu hotline: 215-685-6458 or visiting www.phila.gov/health.

Immunization Program extends outreach efforts

The Immunization Program works with two community-based organizations, the Council of Spanish Speaking Organizations (CONCILIO) and the Supportive Child and Adult Network (SCAN), to provide outreach services to both parents and providers in the city of Philadelphia. The Outreach Program targets children 10- and 20-months of age who are behind in their immunizations, according to the KIDS Registry.

In 2004, the Immunization Program's outreach workers visited over 10,000 children living in North and West Philadelphia. Services offered included transportation assistance, referrals to the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and educational programs to increase awareness of the importance of immunizations.



VFC providers play a critical role in this effort. Since outreach referrals are generated by a child's status in the KIDS Registry, it is essential that immunization data is accurately being entered into KIDS in a timely manner. It is essential providers support the efforts of the outreach workers by offering flexibility in scheduling appointments for immunization-delayed children, and following through on their subsequent immunizations.

Immunization Program Contacts:

To speak to the Immunization Program Manager
Andrew Chilkatowsky (215) 685-6835

To speak to a medical specialist about immunizations
Dr. Barbara Watson (215) 685-6842

To contact the Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program
Bruce Barlow, RN (215) 685-6853

To contact the Immunization Outreach Program
Bruce Barlow, RN (215) 685-6853

To contact the KIDS Registry
Michael Eberhart (215) 685-6603

To contact the Varicella Active Surveillance Project
Karl Heath, RN (215) 685-6841

To contact the Adult Immunization Program
Jim Sweeney, RN, BSN (215) 685-6466

To schedule a VFC-AFIX site visit
Terina Thomas-Perry (215) 685-6720

To contact the Vaccines for Children Program
Christine Wilson (215) 685-6728
Wanda Hamlet (215) 685-6872

To obtain a child's record from the KIDS Registry
KIDS Registry Helpline (215) 685-6784

To report a case of a vaccine-preventable disease
Division of Disease Control (215) 685-6748

To learn what immunizations are required for international travel
Division of Disease Control (215) 685-6740

For other questions or for general information about the Immunization Program, please call (215) 685-6748

Currently, the Immunization Program is increasing efforts to deliver outreach services to providers. To increase the accuracy of the KIDS Registry data, outreach workers are conducting regular chart audits with providers and offering feedback on how to increase their own immunization rates, improve data entry, and decrease lost revenue due to billing errors.

The above map details the neighborhoods targeted in outreach efforts.