



**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE**
Thomas Farley, MD, MPH
Commissioner

Jane R. Zucker, MD, MSc
Assistant Commissioner
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Bureau of Immunization
2 Lafayette Street, 19th Fl.
New York, NY 10007

August 11, 2009

Dear Colleague:

This is to inform you of two important new requirements that you will need to meet to continue to receive vaccine from the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program, beginning January 1, 2010.

Effective September 15, 2009, all providers currently enrolled in the VFC Program will be required to complete annual, online re-enrollment by December 31st of each year. The one-page re-enrollment form will be available, under the VFC icon, beginning on September 15th, after log-in to the Citywide Immunization Registry (CIR) Online Registry. If you do not already have an Online Registry user name and password, call the CIR at 212-676-2323. By completing the annual re-enrollment form you will be agreeing to the terms and conditions of the VFC Program; these requirements can be found at www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/imm/immvfc.shtml. For questions about re-enrollment, please call the Vaccine Management Unit at 212-447-8183.

Second, starting January 1, 2010, vaccine doses reported to the CIR with no indication of VFC eligibility status will no longer be counted as VFC eligible in the CIR-generated doses administered report (DAR). All doses reported to the CIR must indicate one of the eligibility categories for vaccines distributed through VFC: Medicaid, uninsured, insurance does not cover vaccine, American Indian or Alaskan Native, or Child Health Plus B (CHPB). Our policy of requiring the CIR-generated DAR to be 90% or higher to receive full shipment of vaccines from VFC will continue. Failure to report that vaccine doses were administered to a VFC-eligible child may lower your DAR to less than 90% and result in a reduction of the number of doses of VFC vaccine received.

Reporting a child's VFC eligibility status can be accomplished easily by reporting through the Online Registry. Use of the Online Registry provides real-time information about a child's immunization status and recommendations about vaccines due, resulting in a child who is up-to-date with all immunizations and overall improved vaccination coverage levels. Should you have questions or need assistance with the CIR, Online Registry or reporting VFC eligibility, please call the CIR at 212-676-2323.

We thank you for your continuing efforts to protect children from vaccine-preventable diseases.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jane R. Zucker'.

Jane R. Zucker, MD, MSc
Assistant Commissioner
Bureau of Immunization