



Vaccines for Children Provider Notice

Pennsylvania Department of Health,
Bureau of Communicable Diseases, Division of Immunizations

December 2019

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Updated Vaccine Information Statements

CDC updated several vaccine information statements (VISs), effective October 31, 2019.

Those updated include: **zoster/shingles (live), zoster/shingles (recombinant), pneumococcal conjugate (PCV13), pneumococcal polysaccharide (PPSV23), polio, HPV (human papillomavirus), Hib (Haemophilus influenzae type b), rotavirus, cholera, and typhoid.**

Although CDC published these VISs to be used now, they confirmed that previous stock of VISs may be used until they run out. VISs may be downloaded from [CDC's website](#).

Immunization Requirements: Schools and Child Care

Please be aware of the following provisions as required by Pennsylvania law for children attending school, and for children in child care group settings:

Immunizations requirements (PA Code 23.83)

- *Child care group setting.* Attendance at a child care group setting located in a public, private or vocational school, or in an intermediate unit, is conditional upon the child's satisfaction of the immunization requirements in PA Code 27.77 (relating to immunization requirements for children in child care group settings).
- *Prekindergarten programs, early intervention programs' early childhood special education classrooms and private academic preschools.* Attendance at a prekindergarten program operated by a school district, an early intervention program operated by a contractor or subcontractor including intermediate units, school districts and private vendors, or at private academic preschools is conditional upon the child's satisfaction of the immunization requirements in PA Code 27.77.

Immunization requirements for children in child care group settings (PA Code 27.77)

- *Vaccination requirements.* Each child enrolled in a child care group setting shall be immunized in accordance with ACIP standards that went into effect January 1, 1999, governing the issuance of ACIP recommendations for the immunization of children.

According to Pa. law, the provisions above apply to child care group settings. All recommendations from the ACIP are required in Pennsylvania. In addition to the immunizations required by the commonwealth for school age children, the ACIP also recommends the Influenza and Hepatitis A vaccinations for child care group settings and therefore they are required for children in these settings.

Five Reasons to Fight Flu this Season

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) offers the following talking points for providers to share with their patients when discussing influenza and the flu shot:

1. **Flu is dangerous.** The flu is different from the everyday cold. It can last two weeks or more and cause serious complications such as pneumonia. Seasonal flu is a serious disease that causes millions of illnesses, hundreds of thousands of hospitalizations, and tens of thousands of deaths every year in the United States. Although [good health behaviors](#) including proper etiquette for coughs and sneezes can help reduce the spread of flu, experts agree a flu vaccine is the best way to prevent flu.
2. **Flu vaccination reduces your chances of getting sick with flu or winding up in the hospital if you do get sick. Those who get a flu vaccine are less likely to get sick from a flu virus. This means less time missing work and other**

activities. If you do get sick, some studies have shown if you are vaccinated, your illness may be less severe. This means more time for your loved ones and the activities you enjoy most.

3. **Getting your flu vaccine could save someone else from getting seriously ill.** Babies and young children, pregnant women, people 65 and older, and those with certain medical conditions are all at [increased risk of complications from flu](#). Getting vaccinated reduces the spread of flu from you to these vulnerable individuals. We get vaccinated to protect our loved ones and to do our part to ensure the health and wellness of every employee.
4. **Flu vaccines are safe.** Millions of flu vaccines have been given safely for more than 50 years. Your body's natural response to vaccination may result in common things like a little redness at the injection site or a slight fever, but these are usually mild and pass quickly.
5. **Flu vaccines are available through your health insurance and most workplaces.** Your workplace may also offer flu vaccines onsite.

A yearly seasonal flu vaccine is recommended for everyone aged 6 months and older.

Shipping Labels: When to Request

Please do not request shipping labels for your vaccine returns unless you are ready to use them **immediately**.

Once the VFC program processes your return request form, you will receive an email from pkginfo@ups.com with your UPS shipping labels.

These labels can only be used one time and must be used within 14 days. Failing to use the return label within these 14 days creates duplicate work and delays processing your returns.

Should you have any questions please contact the DOH Bureau of Communicable Diseases, Division of Immunizations at 888 646-6864.

Vaccine Video Series: "How I Recommend"

The [#HowIRecommend video series](#) features short, informative videos from clinicians like you. These videos explain the importance of vaccination, how to effectively address questions from parents about vaccine safety and effectiveness, and how clinicians routinely recommend same day vaccination to their patients.

If you're looking for new ways to make an effective recommendation, answer questions that your patients have, or how to get your entire staff on board with vaccination, video playlists can also be viewed by topic.

Offered here are two good examples: '[Making an Effective Flu Vaccination Recommendation](#);' and '[Addressing Vaccine Safety Concerns](#).'

Pennsylvania: 2019 "HPV Vaccine Is Cancer Prevention Champion"

For their innovative approach to improving vaccination rates in their community, the **UPMC St. Margaret Bloomfield Garfield Family Health Center** is Pennsylvania's *2019 HPV Vaccine Is Cancer Prevention Champion!*

The University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) St. Margaret Bloomfield Garfield Family Health Center was established in 1984, in a disadvantaged urban neighborhood in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The health center serves predominantly low income and African American patients, registering 10,000 patient visits per year. It also serves as headquarters for the school health partnership with five East End Pittsburgh schools. Over the past few years, the health center pursued two successive quality improvement projects to increase HPV vaccination rates for their patients. These projects have been successful due to strong leadership and enthusiastic participation of the entire staff, with an impressive 77% completion rate for both male and female patients.

Please add the Vaccines For Children email to your address book: RA-pavfc@pa.gov