



## TO THE PROVIDERS

Welcome to the first *Immunization Bulletin* provider newsletter. We, at the Division of Public Health's immunization program, share your commitment to delivering the profound benefits of vaccines to our children and community. Through this newsletter, we hope to keep health professionals updated concerning vaccine supplies, manufacturers and guidance from the Immunization Program and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Winter 2007

# The Immunization Bulletin

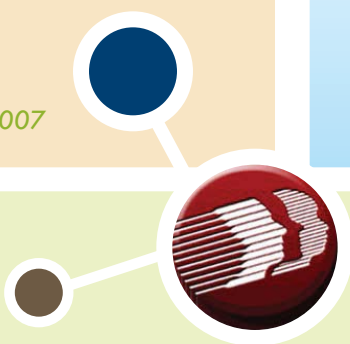
## DIRECT DELIVERY OF VFC VACCINES

On June 4, the Division of Public Health's Immunization Program transitioned to a new system with McKesson as the distributor for all vaccine for the Vaccines for Children program. It will take two weeks on average to receive a shipment. Delivery will occur Tuesday through Friday. Providers are advised to take this into account in managing inventory.

### Delivery process:

- McKesson will deliver vaccines directly to the health care provider.
- Varicella and MMRV vaccines will continue to be shipped directly from the manufacturer.
- Providers should assure that primary and back-up staff are trained to properly store and handle vaccine, and that the staff is available to receive shipments.
- Staff contact information and vaccine storage instructions should be posted prominently where deliveries are received to ensure prompt attention. Vaccine should never be left unattended.
- Upon receipt, the package should be opened immediately and vaccine stored as appropriate. The enclosed temperature monitor should be checked. If it does not indicate that the temperature is in the acceptable range contact the VFC Coordinator as soon as possible at 1-800-282-8672. Never reject or fail to appropriately store any vaccine. Contact the VFC coordinator immediately if there are difficulties.

Contact the  
Immunization  
Program at  
1-800-282-8672.



**DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES**  
Division of Public Health  
Immunization Program 1-800-282-8672

Doc. # 35-05-20/07/10/22

#### TITLE 16 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO IMMUNIZATIONS

Last year, the Delaware General Assembly passed legislation phasing out mercury from all vaccines administered to children younger than 8 years old and to pregnant women by Jan. 2008. The legislation excludes vaccines administered during declared states of emergency or epidemics.

The full impact of the legislation will be felt after

January 1, 2008 when no vaccine containing even trace amounts of mercury may be administered to these women and children. Existing inventory of mercury-containing vaccine may not be used after this date.

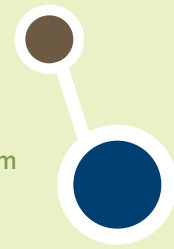
The following are examples of vaccines that contain mercury:

- DT (Diphtheria/Tetanus) multi-dose formulation by Sanofi Pasteur
- TT (Tetanus Toxoid) by Sanofi Pasteur
- Fluzone multi-dose vial by

Sanofi Pasteur

- Fluvirin with Thimerosal by Chiron
- Menomune multi-dose vials by Sanofi Pasteur
- Japanese-Encephalitis vaccine
- A complete list is available at [www.vaccinesafety.edu/thi-table-07-0727.pdf](http://www.vaccinesafety.edu/thi-table-07-0727.pdf)

If you have any questions regarding how this law will impact your practice, please call the immunization program at 1-800-282-8672.



#### Annual VFC Satisfaction Survey

Each year, DPH's Vaccines for Children program conducts a satisfaction survey of VFC providers. The survey helps us to assess provider needs and areas that need improvement.

The 2007 survey results indicate that 94 percent of respondents are satisfied with the VFC program and 94 percent found the customer service satisfactory. In addition, 98 percent are satisfied with the ease of vaccine ordering.

Areas that require improvement include data entry processes, visibility of the "read only" registry access for providers and the development of a reminder recall system.

Providers are urged to assist the program in improving services by completing and returning the survey each year.