Vaccines for Children

Program Updates

May 8, 2017

VFC Updates:

VFC staff changes & updates

Dorlisa Tillman is now the Immunization Regional Consultant (IRC) for Health Region 6

Dorlisa has accepted a new position within the Immunization Program. As of April 17, 2017, Dorlisa will be the Region 6 (Dekalb, Newton and Rockdale) Immunization Regional Consultant (IRC). Dorlisa previously served as the VFC Coordinator for the Immunization Program and was the go to person for all things VFC related including enrollment, re-certification, withdrawals and resolving provider issues. Until a new coordinator is hired, please send requests to the VFC inbox at dph-gavfc@dph.ga.gov to be routed to the VFC staff responsible for resolving your request.

Dorlisa will be in orientation through May 9. Once orientation is complete, providers in Region 6 will receive an introduction letter via email which will include her contact information, which can also be found on the final page of this newsletter.

New VFC Associate - Ria Clarke

Ria is originally from Trinidad and lived for many years in New York where she obtained her undergraduate degree in Biology. She later moved to Atlanta with her husband and 2 children. Ria came to the Vaccines for Children Program as a graduate intern from Georgia State University where she is pursuing a Master’s Degree in Public Health. She enjoys the daily interaction with VFC providers across the state of Georgia and is passionate about healthcare issues.

New Vaccines Logistics Associate - Brandon Brown

Brandon is a recent Georgia Southern University graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Biology. Brandon has been working in customer service since 2011. He is excited to merge his customer service experience with public health and has enjoyed working with a variety of people throughout the Vaccine for Children Program.

Vaccine Updates

Recombivax® Syringes and Engerix vials not on current CDC/VFC contract. Select Recombivax vials or Engerix® syringes as an alternate.

Vaqta® Syringes not on current CDC/VFC contract. Select Vaqta vials or switch to Havrix® as an alternate.

Additional Vaccine Requests: VFC will approve requests up to 100 doses over the amount listed as “doses presumed needed”. Requests in excess of 100 require an email justification. Submit requests via email to dph-gavfc@dph.ga.gov.

Data Logger: All newly enrolled VFC providers are required to have a Data Logger. As of 1/1/2018, All VFC providers will be required to use data loggers.

Contact Us

Vaccines for Children Program
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Atlanta, GA 30303-3142
(404) 657-5013
(800) 848-3868 toll free
(404) 657-5736 fax
(800) 372-3627 toll free fax
DPH-gavfc@dph.ga.gov

Plan Ahead for the Back to School Rush

As the busy back to school season approaches, please be sure to plan ahead by verifying that your site has a cushion of a 3 month supply of vaccine on hand. We will currently honor vaccine requests of up to 100 doses over the presumed doses needed amount during the rush.

http://dph.georgia.gov/vaccines-children-program
Vaccine Updates

**Quadracel**
Sanofi Pasteur’s DTaP-IPV combination vaccine, Quadracel™ is available for order from the GAVFC program. The vaccine is available as a 10-dose package, vial presentation (NDC# 49281-0562-10). Quadracel is a combination DTaP and IPV vaccine. It was approved by the FDA in 2015 for use in children 4 through 6 years of age as the fifth dose in the DTaP series, and as the fourth or fifth dose in the IPV series in children who have received 4 doses of Pentacel (DTaP-IPV-Hib, Sanofi Pasteur) and/or Daptacel (DTaP, Sanofi Pasteur) vaccine. It should not be given to children younger than age 4 years. CDC published a short MMWR article about Quadracel on September 4, 2015 (www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/wk/mm6434.pdf, pages 948–9).

**Menveo**
GSK acquired Menveo® vaccines from Novartis in 2015. Previously, Menveo® had NDC numbers that were associated with Novartis. NDC numbers for Menveo® will transition to NDC numbers assigned to GSK vaccines. (NDC# 58160-0955-09).

**ENGERIX-B® Pediatric/Adolescent VIALS update**
Effective April 1, 2017, GlaxoSmithKline’s product ENGERIX-B® Pediatric/Adolescent 10 pack – 1 dose VIAL is not available on the CDC VFC vaccine contract. Currently, providers have the option of ordering ENGERIX-B® 10 pack – 1 dose syringes or RECOMBIVAX HB® 10 pack – 1 dose vial.

Hospitals and clinic sites should evaluate their hepatitis B vaccine inventory to ensure they have adequate supply. Additionally, providers will need to update their preferences in GRITS to receive future hepatitis B vaccine shipments from the VFC Program. Please use the following steps below to update your preferences in GRITS.

1. Click on the 'Manage Inventory' menu option on the GRITS home screen (blue panel to the left side of the screen)
2. Click on the 'Show Inventory' button
3. Click on the 'Count Inventory' button
4. Click on the 'Set Preferences' button and change the ENGERIX-B 10 pack - 1 dose vial selection to the vaccine you prefer to receive in its place (ENGERIX-B 10 pack - 1 dose syringe or RECOMBIVAX HB 10 pack - 1 dose vial)

**Vaccine Temperature Monitoring Cloud Enrollment**
GA VFC will be transitioning to a Vaccine Temperature Monitoring System (VTMS) using Cloud computing technology through Control Solutions. The Cloud system will be used to help GA VFC, as well as IRCs, review VFC providers’ storage unit temperatures. VFC Providers will be required, per CDC recommendation, to download their data loggers on a weekly basis. In order to make all of this possible, we are requiring all VFC providers to complete the survey below by May 26, 2017.

If you do not currently have a data logger you are still required to complete the survey. Please remember that CDC will require all units that store VFC vaccines to have data loggers by January 1, 2018.

**VFC Providers that participated in the data logger pilot project are no longer required to send or fax their monthly data logger reports and temperature logs.**

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GAVMTC

http://dph.georgia.gov/vaccines-children-program
Immunization Certificate (3231) Q&A

VFC will be providing questions and answers to some of the top certificate completion issues identified during school certificate assessments.

Q: Who may issue certificates?

A: • Physician (Georgia Licensed)*
  • Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN)*
  • Physician Assistant (PA)*
  • Local Board of Health Staff*
  • DPH Immunization Program Staff

* Physicians, APRNs, PAs or health departments are responsible for interpretation of and compliance with the requirements set forth in Chapter 511-2-2 of the Rules of the Department of Public Health.

Q: Who can sign the 3231?

A: • Physician (Georgia Licensed)*
  • Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN)*
  • Physician Assistant (PA)*
  • Local Board of Health Staff*
  • DPH Immunization Program Staff

* A stamp of a physician, APRN, or PA’s signature with official title is permissible when cosigned by an office staff.

Storage & Handling Tips and Updates

Data Loggers

Data loggers supplied by the VFC Program through the Pilot Project have upcoming expiration dates in June and July. Please keep in mind that data loggers must be configured for the type of unit it will be used for. Once configured, a refrigerator thermometer cannot be used in a freezer and a thermometer configured for the freezer cannot be used in a refrigerator without re-configuring and adjusting the minimum and maximum temperatures for the data logger alarms.

In the event that a freezer thermometer needs to be switched to refrigerator use, the thermometer must be configured for refrigerator storage PRIOR to making the switch. Backup thermometers must follow this same guideline. A backup thermometer configured for a refrigerator cannot be used as a backup for the freezer in the event that your freezer thermometer malfunctions and vice versa. Each unit must either be configured for specific use or reconfigured to meet your needs.

Please refer to the Log Tag Quick Start Guide instructions under Configuration Options for instructions on how to adjust the temperatures to conform to the unit you are placing the Log Tag data logger in. These instructions were included in the box when your Log Tag data logger was given to you. This applies to ALL data loggers, not just those provided by the VFC Pilot Project.

Adjustment to CDC’s Recommended Fahrenheit Temperature Range for Refrigerated Vaccine Storage

The 2016 Vaccine Storage and Handling Toolkit reflects the recent adjustment in CDC’s guidance on the Fahrenheit temperature range for storing refrigerated vaccines. The new recommended Fahrenheit temperature range is 36° F - 46° F (previously 35° F - 46° F). The Celsius temperature range (2° C - 8° C) remains unchanged, as stated in all manufacturer package inserts for routinely recommended vaccines.
Field Staff Changes

The Immunization Program has recently made changes to the coverage areas for field representatives, formerly called Immunization Program Consultants (IPCs). Your field representatives are now Immunization Regional Consultants or IRCs. Below is the updated list of regional areas, counties covered and assigned IRC. Please note that 2 regional positions are currently vacant and will be filled in the near future.

Region 1: Rome - Immunization Regional Consultant: Jamie Henley 470-249-4160
Bartow, Catoosa, Chattooga, Cherokee, Dade, Fannin, Floyd, Gilmer, Gordon, Haralson, Murray, Pickens, Polk, Walker, Whitfield

Region 2: Gainesville – Immunization Regional Consultant: Farrah Machida (470) 891-0511
Banks, Dawson, Forsyth, Franklin, Habersham, Hall, Hart, Lumpkin, Rabun, Stephens, Towns, Union, White

Region 3: Cobb/Douglas – Vacant - Contact the VFC Program for assistance
Cobb, Douglas, Paulding, Cherokee

Region 4: Fulton/Clayton - Immunization Regional Consultant: Saron Ephraim (404) 387-9369
Fulton, Clayton

Region 5: Gwinnett – Vacant - Contact the VFC Program for assistance

Region 6: DeKalb – Immunization Regional Consultant: Dorlisa Tillman (404) 313-6379
DeKalb, Rockdale, Newton

Region 7: LaGrange – Immunization Regional Consultant: Tina Dempsey (404) 277-6442
Counties included: Butts, Carroll, Coweta, Heard, Lamar, Meriwether, Pike, Spalding, Troup, Fayette, Henry

Region 8: Dublin/Macon – Immunization Regional Consultant: Kelly Duke (404) 277-9414
Baldwin, Bibb, Bleckley, Dodge, Crawford, Hancock, Houston, Jasper, Jeff Davis, Johnson, Jones, Laurens, Monroe, Montgomery, Peach, Putnam, Telfair, Twiggs, Toombs, Treutlen, Washington, Wheeler, Wilkinson

Region 9: Augusta – IRC: Shelia Fultz (404) 387-5476
Bulloch, Burke, Candler, Columbia, Emanuel, Glascock, Jefferson, Jenkins, Lincoln, McDuffie, Richmond, Screven, Taliaferro, Warren, Wilkes

Region 10: Columbus – Immunization Regional Consultant: Kelly Seegmueller (404) 277-3179
Calhoun, Chattahoochee, Clay, Crisp, Dooly, Early, Harris, Lee, Macon, Marion, Muscogee, Pulaski, Quitman, Randolph, Schley, Stewart, Sumter, Talbot, Taylor, Terrell, Upson, Webster, Wilcox

Region 11: Valdosta, Albany – Immunization Regional Consultant: Lisa Jenkins (404) 615-2427
Atkinson, Baker, Ben Hill, Berrien, Brooks, Colquitt, Clinch, Coffee, Cook, Decatur, Dougherty, Early, Echols, Grady, Irwin, Lanier, Lowndes, Miller, Mitchell, Seminole, Thomas, Tift, Turner, Worth

Region 12: Savannah, Brunswick, Waycross : John Sheahan
Appling, Bacon, Brantley, Bryan, Camden, Charlton, Chatham, Effingham, Evans, Glynn, Liberty, Long, McIntosh, Pierce, Tattnall, Ware, Wayne

Region 13: Athens – Immunization Regional Consultant: Angie Webster (404) 277-8923
Barrow, Clarke, Elbert, Greene, Jackson, Madison, Morgan, Oconee, Oglethorpe, Walton

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