

AN IMMUNIZATION UPDATE FROM THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

DATE: June 30, 2011
TO: MnVFC Providers
FROM: MnVFC Program
RE: MnVFC vaccine ordering and distribution will continue during state government shutdown

Please route to:

- Clinical supervisor
- Medical director
- Clinic manager
- Clinic staff
- Pharmacy
- Vaccine staff

Since no state budget has been passed, the state government shutdown will begin on July 1st. The governor and courts have determined that MnVFC vaccine ordering and distribution is considered a critical service and will be allowed to continue during the shutdown. We will only have one staff person to manage all of the vaccine orders, so many services that we normally offer will not be available.

What immunization services will be available during the shutdown?

- **MnVFC pediatric vaccine orders**
During the shutdown our priority will be to process pediatric vaccine orders; however, there may be a delay given the limited staffing. Please make sure to order earlier than normal to adjust for the possible delay.
- **Adult vaccine orders**
We will also attempt to fill vaccine orders for Minnesota Health Care Program (MHCP) adults and for the Uninsured and Underinsured Adult Vaccine (UUAV) program. Since pediatric vaccine will be our main priority there may be a delay on adult vaccine orders.
- **MnVFC online vaccine ordering and fax orders**
You will be able to continue ordering vaccine online or by fax.

What immunization services will not be available during the shutdown?

- **Vaccine administration or management consultation**
Staff will not be available to consult about vaccine administration or management issues. We recommend you use the following resources:
 - The Minnesota Department of Health's Immunization website at www.health.state.mn.us/immunize
 - CDC's Vaccines and Immunization website at www.cdc.gov/vaccines
 - CDC's Contact Center at 800-232-4636 (800-CDC-INFO)
- **Storage and handling mishaps consultation**
Staff will not be available to assist in managing storage and handling mishaps so please follow these steps.
 - Stop using the vaccine in question and mark it "Do Not Use" so staff won't inadvertently administer it
 - Move the vaccine to a refrigerator/freezer that's maintaining the correct temperature – apart from other vaccines – until you can determine if it is viable. Do not throw it away!
 - Gather vaccine name, lot number, expiration date, and temperature details for all vaccine affected by the mishap.
 - Contact the vaccine manufacturer and ask to speak with the medical consultant or quality assurance staff. Manufacturer phone numbers can be found at www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/downloads/appendices/C/manufact-qc.pdf
- **Non-viable MDH vaccine returns**
Non-viable vaccine returns will not be processed until after the shutdown.
- **Flu vaccine distribution**
2011-2012 seasonal flu vaccine will not be distributed until after the shutdown.

We greatly appreciate your support and understanding during this challenging time.

If you have questions call 651-201-5414 or 1-877-676-5414 and ask for MnVFC vaccine ordering and distribution.