TO: Vaccine Provider

FROM: Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
                   Center for Immunization
                   Vaccines for Children Program

SUBJECT: **Provider Enrollment in the Vaccines for Children Program**

Thank you for your interest in enrolling in the State of Maryland's Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program.

The VFC Program is a federal entitlement program that provides publicly purchased vaccines for eligible children, at no cost to the participating health care provider. Children 0 through 18 years of age who meet at least one of the following criteria are eligible to receive VFC vaccine:

- Medicaid eligible;
- Uninsured;
- Native American or Alaska Native; or
- Underinsured (vaccinated at a FQHC/RHC only)

Enclosed please find the Maryland VFC New Enrollment Pre-Site Questionnaire. Please fax the completed Pre-Site Questionnaire to the fax number below. Please keep a copy for your records.

   VFC Program Fax Number 410-333-5893

Upon review and approval of the completed Pre-Site Questionnaire, VFC Provider enrollment forms will be mailed to the responsible medical provider. In addition, a VFC Site Reviewer will contact the responsible medical provider to schedule a new enrollment visit.

Please note: all VFC Provider enrollment forms must be completed prior to the new enrollment visit. **VFC providers may not store federally purchased vaccine in dormitory style refrigerators at any time.**

If you have any questions or need assistance completing the Pre-Site Questionnaire please call the VFC Contact Center at 410-299-5647.

Maryland Vaccines for Children (VFC)
New Enrollment Pre-Site Questionnaire

Fax completed questionnaire to: <u>410-333-5893</u>

Responsible Medical Provider: _____ Medical License #: _____

Phone Number: (_____) _____ Fax Number: (_____) _____ County: _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address: _____ Practice/Facility/Clinic Name: _____

TYPE OF PRACTICE/FACILITY (select one):

☐ Pediatric Practice   ☐ Local Health Department   ☐ School-Based Health Clinic
☐ Family Practice   ☐ OB/GYN   ☐ College-Based Health Clinic
☐ Internal Medicine   ☐ Urgent Care Center   ☐ Juvenile Justice/Corrections
☐ Hospital   ☐ FQHC/RHC   ☐ Pharmacy

CATAGORY OF VFC-ELIGIBLE CHILD (0-18 yrs) EXPECTED TO VACCINATE (check all that apply):

☐ Maryland Medicaid   ☐ No Health Insurance   ☐ Native American/Alaskan Native   ☐ Underinsured (FQHC/RHC Only)

SHIPPING HOURS: Indicate hours practice/facility is open and someone is available to accept shipments

Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday	
AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM

Special shipping instructions:

VACCINE STORAGE UNITS

	Refrigerator Storage Unit Types			Freezer Storage Unit Types	
	Type	Number of Units		Type	Number of Units
☐	Combination (with freezer)		☐	Combination (with freezer)	
☐	Stand alone refrigerator (**Dorm style units are NOT acceptable**)		☐	Stand alone freezer (**Dorm style units are NOT acceptable**)	
☐	Commercial/Pharmacy Grade		☐	Commercial/Pharmacy Grade	

Is your refrigerator/freezer unit(s) in good worker condition   ☐ Yes   ☐ No

Does your refrigerator/freezer unit(s) maintain proper temperatures (35º- 46ºF refrigerator; 5ºF or lower freezer)
☐ Yes   ☐ No

Per VFC Program requirements, all vaccine storage units must have a certified calibrated thermometer. Do your vaccine storage units have certified calibrated thermometers?   ☐ Yes   ☐ No

If yes, please fax the thermometer certificates, along with this questionnaire, to the number above. Submission of the thermometer's manufacturer warranty is NOT acceptable. Certified calibrated thermometers are available from laboratory and scientific supply companies.

Please note: VFC-eligible patients should not be scheduled for vaccination until AFTER receipt of the vaccine.

Maryland Vaccines for Children (VFC)
Certified Calibrated Thermometer Information

Vaccines for Children (VFC) providers are <u>required</u> to have calibrated thermometers covered by a Certificate of Traceability and Calibration in all units where publicly funded vaccine is stored. With the goal of improving the way vaccines are stored and handled nationwide, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) <u>recommends</u> the use of a digital thermometer with a biosafe glycol-encased probe that will measure liquid temperature. Maryland VFC encourages all providers to comply with CDC's recommendations. More detail regarding the rationale behind these recommendations is included below.

1. **Use of a biosafe glycol-encased probe or a similar temperature buffered probe rather than measurement of ambient air temperatures.** CDC recommends this type of probe because studies by the National Institutes of Standards and Technology (NIST), U .S. Dept of Commerce conducted in 2009 showed that compared to temperature monitors that measure ambient air temperature, the digital thermometer with glycol-encased probe more accurately reflects the temperature of the vaccine vial and does not register normal air temperature fluctuations

2. **Use of digital data loggers with detachable probes that record and store temperature information at frequent programmable intervals for 24 hour temperature monitoring rather than non-continuous temperature monitoring.** The digital data logger should also include the following:
   • Hi/Lo alarm for out-of-range temperatures;
   • An active display that allows for reading temperatures without opening the unit door;
   • Current temperature, as well as minimum and maximum temperatures;
   • Reset button ;
   • Low battery indicator;
   • Accuracy of +/- 1°F (0.5°C);
   • Memory storage of at least 4000 readings, device will not rewrite over old data and stops recording
   • when memory is full;
   • User programmable logging interval (or reading rate).

These systems for continuous temperature monitoring mean more accurate and comprehensive monitoring of any temperature excursions to which vaccines may have been exposed, and diminish the need for opening the unit door while conducting this routine monitoring.

Please see Oregon VFC's Thermometer Guide for more information regarding data loggers and glycol probes: http://tinyurl.com/cnncvpg.