



Mark Parkinson, Governor  
Roderick L. Bremby, Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
AND ENVIRONMENT

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## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** October 2010

**TO:** Local Health Department Administrators and VFC Coordinators

**THROUGH:** Jason Eberhart-Phillips, MD, MPH, Medical Director, KDHE

**THROUGH:** Brenda Walker, Director, Bureau of Disease Control & Prevention

**FROM:** Sue Bowden, RN, BS, Director, Immunization Program

**SUBJECT:** KS Immunization Program Guidelines for Vaccine Use by LHDs

Federal program funding requirements and state budget funding restraints have again necessitated the evaluation of the use of those funds by the Kansas Immunization Program (KIP) for vaccine purchases. The purpose of this communication is to re-define and clarify the guidelines regarding the use of vaccine provided by the KIP. Please review the attached guidelines for definition of key terms used in this letter.

The Federal Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program provides resources to cover the cost of vaccinating the VFC eligible population and only that population. The VFC program is a federal entitlement program with clearly defined eligibility criteria and there is not discretion provided to states or local providers relative to eligibility. As an entitlement program, the funding support for VFC is increased as vaccines are added to the childhood immunization schedule and as prices of vaccines change. CDC has implemented a vaccine ordering formula to determine vaccine needs for each state's immunization program. This formula is used to restrict VFC vaccine availability for each state to amounts matched to their VFC population and funding. VFC funding cannot be used to support immunization of non VFC eligible children. VFC eligibility includes:

- **Medicaid eligible:** A child who is eligible for the Medicaid program.(For the purposes of the VFC program the terms Medicaid-eligible and Medicaid-enrolled are equivalent and refer to children who have health insurance covered by a state Medicaid program)
- **Uninsured:** A child who has no health insurance coverage
- **Indian (American Indian or Alaska Native):** As defined by the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1603)
- **Underinsured:** Children who have commercial (private) health insurance but the coverage does not include vaccines, children whose insurance covers only selected vaccines(VFC - eligible for non-covered vaccines only), or children whose insurance caps vaccine coverage at a certain amount--once that coverage amount is reached, these children are categorized as underinsured.

Private VFC providers may only use KIP vaccines for their VFC eligible patients.

Federal 317 immunization funding and State General Fund (SGF) appropriations for immunizations are discretionary funds for vaccination efforts by state immunization programs. The population served and the vaccines covered by these funds are defined by individual states as their resources permit. Federal 317 funding for vaccine purchase has not increased in recent years and SGF funding for vaccine purchase has been reduced recently due to the state fiscal situation. Conversely, the number of vaccines recommended by the ACIP for children and adolescents has increased and the cost of those newly recommended vaccines is higher. As a result, Federal 317 and SGF immunization funding for vaccination in Kansas will be restricted to the following:

- Universal Hepatitis B hospital birth dose program for infants born in Kansas
  - Provided to Kansas birthing hospitals enrolled in the VFC Program.
- Tdap Cocoon Project pilot for Tdap vaccination of mothers of newborn infants.
  - Provided to pilot project birthing hospitals and LHDs
- Underserved children and adolescents who are enrolled in the federal free or reduced price lunch program who have insurance co pay or deductible costs that pose a barrier to immunizations. These children/adolescents are not considered VFC eligible or underinsured. *Vaccines are limited to those required for school entry.*
  - Provided to Local Health Departments

LHDs may no longer use KIP vaccine for children who have insurance that covers immunizations regardless of co-pay amounts if the child does not participate in the federal free or reduced lunch program. That documentation must be provided by the parent from their child's school and a copy of eligibility verification must be kept on file for every child immunized with KIP vaccine who is not VFC eligible. Vaccines for the *underserved* population are limited to those required for school entry: DTaP/Tdap; Polio; MMR; Varicella; Hepatitis B.

The Kansas Immunization Program appreciates the Local Health Department efforts to assure the delivery of immunization services to Kansans across the state. Please do not hesitate to contact us with questions or concerns.