
*"To improve the health of our communities by identifying sustainable solutions to community health issues,
developing partnerships for implementation of strategies, and demonstrating our success through measurement of outcomes."*

Changes in Eligibility for the Idaho Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program and Vaccine Supplies

Since 1994, the state of Idaho's Department of Health and Welfare has provided vaccines for all children ages 0 - 18 regardless of insurance status. During the budget process this year, \$2.8 million for state vaccine purchases for state fiscal year 2010 was eliminated. When the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act was announced in February, it appeared Idaho would receive \$2.9 million that could be used to purchase vaccines and delay this reduction for one year. Idaho has recently learned the amount of stimulus money anticipated will actually be much less than projected. The Department of Health and Welfare will now move forward with its original plan of having families with insurance coverage become responsible for their children's vaccination costs.

Beginning July 1, 2009, the IIP will continue to provide vaccines for all children eligible for the Idaho Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. The IIP will no longer provide vaccines for children with insurance that covers vaccines. VFC eligible children include those enrolled in Medicaid, children who are Alaska Native or Native American, children who have no health insurance, and/or children whose health insurance does not cover vaccines. A majority of Idaho's children are currently considered VFC-eligible.

As we prepare for this transition, there are some important dates to be aware of:

- ***Providers should begin identifying sources for vaccine and ordering a private stock in May-June for non-VFC-eligible children (insured children).***
- ***The 2009 Provider Enrollment Agreement (PEA) and IIP Policies and Guidelines, indicating the program changes, will be mailed in May 2009 and due back to the IIP by June 30, 2009 (remember: no vaccine can be ordered until the 2009 PEA has been signed and returned).***
- ***May 29th, 2009 last day to order vaccine under the current program guidelines for use during the month of June.***
- ***No vaccine orders will be processed during June 2009.***
- ***As of July 1, 2009 vaccines supplied by the Idaho Immunization Program will only be for VFC-eligible children 0 - 18 years of age.***

We understand this is a significant change for providers and realize that this change will bring some challenges. Throughout the next few months the IIP will work closely with healthcare providers to help transition to a new system in which providers will be responsible for independently ordering and storing vaccines, and billing healthcare insurance for vaccinations.

If you have any questions or would like additional information regarding Idaho's vaccine funding status please email the Idaho Immunization Program at IIP@dhw.idaho.gov