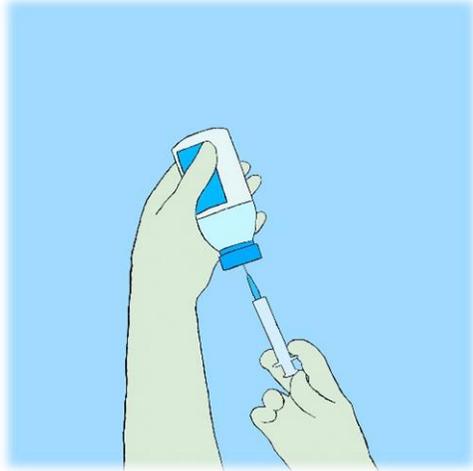


Vaccination

Talking to your patients, (or the parents/caregivers of your patients), about vaccination is an important part of your job as a healthcare provider. Healthcare providers are seen as trustworthy sources of information regarding vaccines.



However, in the age of digital media some people are getting mixed messages about the safety or even the need for vaccination. Addressing the questions that they have may reduce or eliminate the concerns that they might have about vaccination.

When addressing the questions from the patient/caregiver, having the knowledge or the educational materials to present to them, is very important. The resources used should be reliable and reputable.

Questions such as: “Aren’t these too many vaccines, too soon?”, “Why should my child have that vaccine? They’re not sexually active.”, “What are the side effects?” are all possible questions that the parents may ask. Even if you’re not able to answer that question directly, helping them find the answer from reputable information is important.

Along with this, listen to the parent/caregiver. Acknowledge that they want to protect their children. With childhood vaccinations, the parent/caregiver may have deep concerns. Whether these are founded in science or hearsay, they still have the right to make informed decisions, and giving them the best information possible will help them with that decision. Good communication goes a long way in establishing a good relationship with your patients.

Listed below are reputable sites to find good education materials.

CDC

- **“Making the Vaccine Decision”**
<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/vaccine-decision/index.html>
- **“Parents’ Guide to Childhood Immunization”**
<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/tools/parents-guide/index.html>

Immunization Action Coalition

- **“Responding to Parents”**
<http://www.immunize.org/talking-about-vaccines/responding-to-parents.asp>

American Academy of Pediatrics

- **“Communicating with Families”**
<https://www.aap.org/en-us/advocacy-and-policy/aap-health-initiatives/immunizations/Pages/Communicating-with-Families.aspx>

Vaccine Education Center (VEC) Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia

- **“Too Many Vaccines? What you should know**
www.chop.edu/export/download/pdfs/articles/vaccine-education-center/too-many-vaccines.pdf,
- **“Vaccine Ingredients: What you should know**
www.chop.edu/export/download/pdfs/articles/vaccine-education-center/vaccine-ingredients.pdf

Storage and Handling Reminders

One very important part of the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program is the correct storage of the vaccine. Proper storage and handling keeps the vaccine effective and in turn helps to keep the public healthy and assist in reducing risk of vaccine preventable disease. This is why it's important to keep the temperatures of the vaccine between 36°F and 46°F (or 2°C and 8°C) refrigerated and 5°F and -58°F (or -15°C and -50° C) for frozen, otherwise it could reduce the potency of the vaccine, or even render it useless. So, not only does this waste the vaccine when it can't be administered, if the sub-potent vaccine has been administered to the patient, they must be re-vaccinated.



This would also be why the continuous temperature recording devices (such as data loggers) are so important, they keep a historical record of temperatures. However, this does not replace the need for daily observation and documentation of the minimum and maximum temperatures. Also, the data loggers should be downloaded weekly.

Please keep in mind, if you find the temperature in your unit is getting warmer (or colder), and you need to adjust the temperature in that unit, you must watch that temperature for at least the next **one-half (½) of an hour**. This is to assure that the temperature change isn't too much and will cause a temperature excursion. (Remember if a temperature excursion occurs, follow the protocol on page 24 of your VFC Provider manual.) And, if the temperatures aren't staying stable, but within range, you might consider placing more water bottles in the unit to stabilize the temperatures.

Also, remember if you have a situation where you need to use your “**Emergency Vaccine Management Plan**”, (especially with Spring/Summer storm weather), the water bottles that you have in the refrigerator can come in handy to keep vaccine cool if you need to “pack-out” your vaccine to move it. If you do need to move vaccine, **never use frozen gel packs or frozen coolant packs** from vaccine shipments for refrigerated vaccines, they could freeze the vaccine.

The “**Vaccine Storage and Handling Toolkit**” is a comprehensive guide for recommendations and best practices including: vaccine storage, monitoring temperatures, preparing emergency vaccine handling and transport, and other topics. This is found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/admin/storage/toolkit/storage-handling-toolkit.pdf>

“Remember, if your clinic carries Shingrix, it is to be stored in the refrigerator not the freezer.”



A New Way of Getting Your LogTags Recalibrated

By now you should have received a fax about the “Due Dates” on your data loggers if you are using state purchased loggers. It is important to fill out the information on the form and send it back to the state. When it is getting closer to the “Due Date” on your logger, the information provided will allow the state to send out loggers in a timely manner that are ready for use. After you receive your logger(s), you will then send in your LogTags that are needing recalibration to the state. This will make it much easier for clinics that have more than one logger that is needing recalibration. Where to send the form? Didn't receive the form? Fax to 402-471-6426 or email to: Karen.Rutherford@nebraska.gov.



Training

Clinic selection of primary and back up VFC coordinators is vital to ensuring clinic operations continue without interruption.

Back up coordinators should be trained and included in VFC management the same as the primary coordinator. In particular, training on NESIIS is critical.

Please contact the clinic assigned community health nurse or the NESIIS team to schedule needed staff training.

Please inform your Community Health Nurse at least 90 days prior to vaccine expiration. Review if expiration could have been prevented and return unopened expired vaccine within 3 months.

Health Care Sharing Ministries

Since the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act became law in 2010, Health Care Sharing Ministries or Medical Cost Sharing Ministries have become more popular.

In the State of Nebraska, according to the Nebraska Legislature, Revised Statute 44-311, *“(1) A health care sharing ministry shall not be considered to be engaging in the business of insurance for purposes of the insurance laws of this state.”* Therefore, children with this type of health plan **are** eligible for the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program, since this is not considered to be insurance...they are **“uninsured”**.

Also somewhere on these membership ID cards, it should say, that this is not insurance.

<https://nebraskalegislature.gov/laws/statutes.php?statute=44-311>

New VIS

Many of you may already know that a few of the Vaccine Information Sheets (VIS) have been updated, and have new dates. The updated VIS are:

MMR-2/12/18

MMRV-2/12/18

Varicella-2/12/18

Rotavirus-2/23/18

and also:

Zoster/Shingles (Live) 2/12/18

Zoster/Shingles (Recombinant) 2/12/18.

To get updates when new VIS are released:

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/current-vis.html> and type in your email address where indicated. Or go to www.immunize.org/vis/

If an unusual increase in vaccine is needed, please email Gary Miller, Vaccine Ordering Specialist. Provide a reason as each order is reviewed for current inventory and trends of overstock.

Earn CMEs, CNEs, & Pharmacy CEs

Are you a medical professional or know someone who is? Physicians, nurses, and pharmacists can now earn continuing education credits when they watch Someone You Love: The HPV Epidemic at a live event or online. The best part...there is **NO COST!** Visit <https://www.hpvepidemic.com/cme> the more providers and all staff understand about the dangers of HPV, the closer we will be to eliminating HPV related cancers and disease burden.

Educational Opportunities

- Pink Book
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/index.html>
- 15th Annual Immunize Nebraska Conference: Friday, May 25, 2018, Omaha, NE. This conference is available via Telehealth Network.
 - <https://healthsciences.creighton.edu/continuing-education>
- CDC Training and Continuing Education Online
 - <https://tceols.cdc.gov/> (Free CE instructional print/videos)
- You Call the Shots
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/ed/youcalltheshots.html>. Web based courses. Free CE after completion of module.
- Immunization Action Coalition-printable materials. Free newsletter
 - <http://www.immunize.org>
- State of Nebraska Health and Human Services website (Immunizations)
 - <http://dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/Immunization/Pages/Schools.aspx> This site has information on School Regulations-NESIIS-Day Care and other information.



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