

VACCINES FOR CHILDREN



Dallas County
Health and Human Services

WINTER 2014 - NEWSLETTER

It's not too late

to get your Flu Shot

Dec 7-13, 2014

Nivw

National Influenza Vaccination Week (NIVW) is a national observance that was established to highlight the importance of continuing influenza vaccination. The best way to protect against influenza is to get a flu vaccine every flu season. The CDC established National Influenza Vaccination Week (NIVW) in 2005 to highlight the importance of continuing flu vaccination through the holiday season and beyond. The flu vaccine is the best way modern medicine currently has to protect against this potentially serious disease. Vaccination can reduce flu illnesses, doctors' visits, missed work due to flu, as well as prevent flu-related hospitalizations and deaths.

Despite the unpredictable nature of the flu, you should get the flu vaccine for optimal protection against the flu. Yearly vaccination is needed because flu viruses are always changing and new vaccine is made each year so that the vaccine protects against the currently circulating influenza viruses, and immune protection from vaccination declines over time so vaccination is recommended every season for optimal protection. It takes about two weeks after vaccination for the immune system to build the antibodies the body needs to provide protection against the flu.

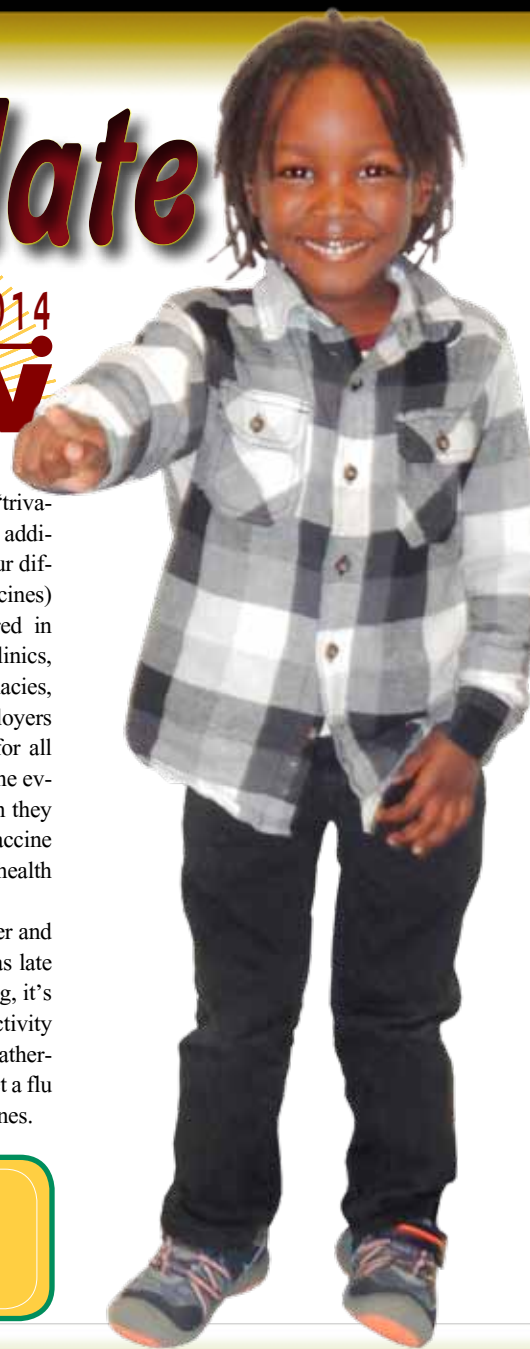
There are many choices available for flu vaccine, both in terms of where to get vaccinated and what vaccine to get. Flu vaccines made to protect

against three different flu viruses (called "trivalent" vaccines) are available this season. In addition, flu vaccines made to protect against four different flu viruses (called "quadrivalent" vaccines) also are available. Flu vaccines are offered in many locations, including doctor's offices, clinics, health departments, retail stores and pharmacies, and health centers, as well as by many employers and schools. The most important thing is for all people 6 months and older to get a flu vaccine every year, regardless of which vaccine option they choose. If you have questions about which vaccine is best for you, talk to your doctor or other health care professional.

Flu activity usually peaks between December and February in the United States and can last as late as May. As long as flu viruses are circulating, it's not too late to get vaccinated. With flu activity starting to increase and family and friends gathering for the holidays, now is a great time to get a flu vaccine to protect yourself and your loved ones.

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Vaccine Storage

Vaccine Storage

In the freezer and refrigerator vaccines should be stored in the middle of the compartment. Vaccines should not be stored in the doors. The temperature near the floor of the refrigerator is not stable and differs from that in the middle of the compartment.

Never store food or beverages inside the vaccine refrigerator or freezer.

Vaccine Packaging

Vaccine products that have similar packaging should be stored in different locations to avoid confusion and medication errors. For example, if you have pediatric and adult versions of the same vaccine, storing them in different locations lessens the chance that someone will inadvertently choose the wrong vaccine.

Labeling

The location of each specific vaccine inside the storage unit should be clearly labeled. This can be accomplished by attaching labels directly to the shelves on which the vaccines are sitting or by labeling trays on which boxes of the same vaccine type are placed. Storing each vaccine in its own specifically labeled section of the refrigerator or freezer helps decrease the chance that someone will mistakenly administer the wrong type of vaccine.

Diluents should be clearly labeled, whether they are stored at room temperature or in the refrigerator.

Label the boxes of corresponding vaccines and



diluents from the same manufacturer so that they will be used together.

Notice of Vaccines to Expire

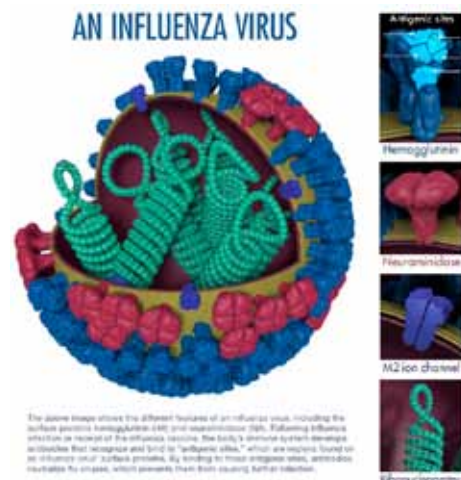
Please contact your DCHHS VFC representative, if you have any questions regarding your vaccines.

Observe your monthly stock level, and expiration dates for all vaccines.

Notify DCHHS VFC representatives 90 days prior to the vaccine expiration date, if the vaccine cannot be used before expiration.

Rotate stock so that short dated vaccine can be distributed first. Too much vaccine kept in inventory increases the risk of vaccines reaching expiration dates and increases the amount of loss in the event of refrigerator failure. When ordering vaccines, providers should keep no more than the designated maximum on hand.

If you are needing training and education for vaccine storage/handling, stock distribution, immunization scheduling, or VFC retraining, contact your DCHHS VFC Representative.



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Temperature Recording Forms



Temperature Recording Form for Refrigerator – Fahrenheit

Monitor temperatures closely!

1. Write your initials below in "Staff Initials," and note the time in "Exact Time."
2. Record temps twice each workday.
3. Record the min/max temps once each workday—preferably in the morning.
4. Put an "X" in the row that corresponds to the refrigerator's temperature.
5. If any out-of-range temp, see instructions to the right.
6. After each month has ended, save each month's log for 5 years.

Month/Year _____ VFCPIN _____ Page 1 of 3

Facility Name _____

TVFC Coordinator _____

Take action if temp is out of range—too warm (above 46°F) or too cold (below 35°F).

1. Label exposed vaccine "do not use," and store it under proper conditions as quickly as possible. Do not discard vaccines unless directed to by your state/local health department and/or the manufacturer(s).
2. Record the out-of-range temps and the room temp in the "Action" area on the bottom of the log.
3. Notify your vaccine coordinator, or call the immunization program at your state or local health department for guidance.
4. Document the action taken on the "Vaccine Storage Troubleshooting Record" on page 3.

Day of Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Staff Initials															
Exact Time	am pm	am pm	am pm	am pm	am pm	am pm	am pm	am pm	am pm	am pm	am pm	am pm	am pm	am pm	am pm
Min/Max Temp (since previous reading)															
Danger! Temperatures above 46°F are too warm! Write any out-of-range temps and room temp on the lines below and call your state or local health department immediately!															
TEMPERATURES	46°F														
	45°F														
	44°F														
	43°F														
	42°F														
	41°F														
	40°F														
ACCEPTABLE	39°F														
	38°F														
	37°F														
	36°F														
	35°F														
Danger! Temperatures below 35°F are too cold! Write any out-of-range temps and room temp on the lines below and call your state or local health department immediately!															
ACTION	Write any out-of-range temps (above 46°F or below 35°F) here:														
	Room Temperature														



ubleshooting Record" found on page 3.



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New Temperature Recording Forms

The Texas Vaccines for Children (TVFC) Program will implement a new temperature recording form which will be required beginning January 1, 2015. The new form will provide additional assurance that VFC vaccines administered to eligible children are appropriately stored and managed.

The new temperature recording form requires, minimum and maximum (MIN/MAX) temperatures be read and documented at the beginning of each workday. In addition, the following TVFC temperature log requirements are mandatory for all providers:

- Temperatures must be recorded on TVFC-provided temperature logs, even if using a continuous temperature-recording device or digital data logger.
- Temperature logs must be posted on each vaccine storage unit door or nearby in a readily accessible and visible location.
- Temperature logs must be maintained for five years.

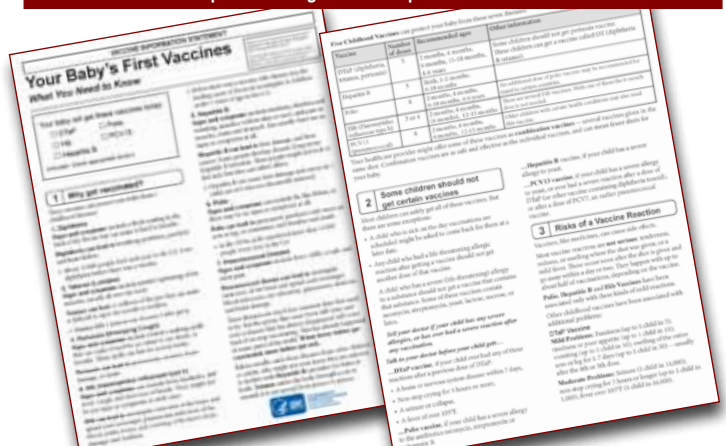
Visit the Immunization Branch's website at: www.immunizetexas.com for a copy of the new temperature recording form

Vaccine Information Statements

A Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) is produced by the CDC to inform vaccine recipients, their parents or legal representatives about the benefits and risks of a vaccine. The law requires that VISs be given out whenever vaccinations are given. Every time a vaccine is given, regardless of what combination it is given in, regardless of whether it is given by a public health clinic or a private provider, regardless of the age of the recipient, the appropriate VIS must be given out at the time of the vaccination.

Please visit the CDC Vaccines website to retrieve Vaccine Information Statements

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/default.htm>



DCHHS Updates!

<http://www.dallascounty.org/HHS/>

Latest VIS Updates!

Pediatric Multi-Vaccine VIS (Oct 22)

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Parts or full contents used within this newsletter were extracted from the publications of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Texas Department of State Health Services website.



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