Maine Immunization Program

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To: Maine Immunization Providers

From: Maine Immunization Program

Subject: **NEW** VFC Provider Educational Requirement

Date: March 25, 2013

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has added a new vaccine management educational requirement for all Vaccines for Children (VFC) enrolled providers, effective January 1, 2013. The CDC now requires that employees of VFC-enrolled provider sites be trained in best practices for vaccine storage and handling upon hire and on an annual basis thereafter. The primary and secondary vaccine coordinators are required to complete the educational requirement; however, the Maine Immunization Program (MIP) strongly encourages all staff involved with vaccine storage and handling to participate as well.

CDC has developed two on-line modules (both modules together count as one educational requirement) available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/ed/>

* VFC Requirements You Call the Shots
* Storage and Handling You Call the Shots

In order to fulfill your VFC provider site educational requirement, you must do the following:

* Both the primary and secondary vaccine coordinators must complete both You Call the Shots modules
* Print the certificates of completion (2 for each person)
* Fax a copy of all completed certificates to MIP at (207)287-8127 or 1-800-867-4775 ensuring that all documents sent includes a facility Name and PIN for identification purposes
* Keep a copy on file (records must be kept for a minimum of 3 years)
* Certificates of completion are due to MIP no later than July 1, 2013.

Please be aware that this educational training will be required on an annual basis and/or when new employees are hired. Please notify MIP within 7 days if your facility has a change in a vaccine coordinator position. In addition, MIP will no longer be supplying vaccine to new facilities prior to the completion of the above educational requirement.

If you have any questions, please contact Jessica Demers at 207-287-3862 or email Jessica.Demers@Maine.gov.

Thank you for your dedication to keep the citizens of Maine free from vaccine-preventable diseases.

Sincerely,



Tonya Philbrick, BS, NCMA

Director

Maine Immunization Program