



Maine Immunization Program

Vaccine for Children Web Resources

VFC Operations Guide

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/vfc/awardees/op-guide.html>

Storage and Handling Toolkit

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/storage/toolkit/default.htm>



If you have any questions, please contact the Maine Immunization Program at: Phone (207) 287-3746 or (800) 867-4775.

Vaccines for Children Policies

On June 5, 2012 the U.S. Department of Health and Human Service Office of the Inspector General (OIG) released a report on "**Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program: Vulnerabilities in Vaccine Management.**" CDC's VFC program provides free vaccines to eligible children through a national network that includes all states and US territories. This program plays a significant role in improving access to vaccination for millions of children.

The OIG report assessed if doctor offices that provide VFC vaccine in five states were meeting their vaccine management requirements, such as storing vaccine at proper temperatures and monitoring expiration dates.

The findings of the OIG were sobering. The vaccines that protect children against serious and even deadly diseases must always be stored properly. This report underscores that we must do better at ensuring that vaccines are stored properly, including removing expired vaccine from units where viable vaccines are stored.

The CDC and the Maine Immunization Program are working with a sense of urgency to address these issues.

The priority of the Maine Immunization Program in the next year is to ensure the proper storage, handling, and oversight of vaccines is occurring at every provider office in the state of Maine who receives vaccine from our program.

As part of this priority the Maine Immunization Program is developing new Vaccine for Children Policies that all providers **must** follow to ensure the safety of all publicly purchased vaccine.

Examples of Policies:

- Use of Dormitory style refrigerators
- VFC compliance site visits
- Temperature Logs
- Emergency Storage and Handling Plan

In the next few weeks policies will be developed and communicated to all providers via blast fax, list serve, Impact2 and the website.

As always we appreciate your continuing efforts to protect the children of Maine from vaccine preventable disease.

To read the OIG reports please go to <https://oig.hhs.gov/oei/reports/oei-04-10-00430.asp>