



Rhode Island Department of Health
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www.health.ri.gov

Immunization Program Update

Date: May 12, 2008
To: State Supplied Vaccine (SSV) for Children Providers
From: Patricia Raymond, Immunization Program Manager
Re: Immunization Program Updates

CDC Presents Rhode Island with Award for High Immunization Rates

On April 25, 2008, Lieutenant Governor Elizabeth Roberts and Director of Health, David R. Gifford, MD, MPH accepted an award from CDC's Dr Melinda Wharton, MD, MPH, Deputy Director of CDC's National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD). Dr Wharton visited RI during National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW) to celebrate the successes of RI partnerships between public health, health care providers, schools and parents in maintaining some of the highest childhood immunization rates in the country for over a decade. The award was received during a press event at the Connecting for Children & Families Day Care Center in Woonsocket. In addition, Dr Wharton was the keynote speaker at the RI American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) annual Spring Training event, Rhode Island Hospital's Pediatric Grand Rounds, the 2008 Annual School Nurse Teacher conference and participated in the Newport Head Start's community baby shower. See RI's vaccination coverage rates at: www.health.ri.gov/immunization/data.php.

2009 State-Supplied Vaccine for Children and KIDSNET Program Enrollment

On May 5, 2008, the [2009 State Supplied Vaccines for Children and KIDSNET Program](#) agreements were mailed to all participating providers. Annual enrollment in these programs is required in order to continue receiving Federal and State supplied vaccine for pediatric use in your practice. You must return the signed agreements as the first part of the enrollment process. This year, we are requesting all enrollments are completed on-line. If you have not enrolled on-line in previous years, **please complete and return the agreements no later than May 30, 2008** so that we may issue the designated person in your practice a user name and password that is needed to complete the on-line enrollment. Effective July 1, 2008, any practice that has not completed enrollment will be unable to place a vaccine order until the enrollment process is completed.

As you know, the RI Immunization Program now uses the CDC Direct Vaccine Distribution System. To further improve vaccine accountability and efficiency, we will be using the immunization data you report to KIDSNET to track vaccine usage, assess vaccination coverage rates, and project our vaccine needs to CDC. To receive state supplied vaccine, all vaccine provider sites must report vaccine usage to KIDSNET either electronically or if necessary, on paper. **Those providers unable to submit electronic data by October 1, 2008 must submit data on paper.** Approval of vaccine orders is dependent on receipt of this immunization data. In addition to combined agreements and online enrollment, other program changes include:

- Implementation of a [Financial Restitution Policy](#) that will become effective October 1, 2008, for replacement of wasted and/or spoiled vaccine due to negligence.
- The individual(s) designated in the practice enrollment as the "Vaccine Contact" (and back-up) is required to complete a [Vaccine Storage & Handling Training Certification](#) by September 1, 2008. A copy of the certification should be kept on file at the vaccine provider site.

If you have questions about the enrollment process, contact Neil Young at 222-5940 Neil.Young@health.ri.gov or Mark Francesconi, at 222-5988, or Mark.Francesconi@health.ri.gov. Practices who have not previously submitted electronic data and wish to do so before the October 1 deadline, should contact Kim Salisbury-Keith at 222-5925 or Kim.SalisburyKeith@health.ri.gov by July 1, 2008.