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## State Funding Increases Vaccines Distributed by Alaska Immunization Program

### Background

House Bill 310 was introduced during Alaska's 27<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session and signed into law on May 22, 2012. A 3-year stopgap measure, this new law provides state funding to help offset the state's dramatic decrease in federal *Section 317 of the U.S. Public Health Service Act (317)* funds for vaccine procurement through 2015.<sup>1</sup> These funds will be used to procure and distribute select childhood vaccines recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) to underinsured children, and to provide select state-supplied vaccines for uninsured/underinsured adults. The Alaska Immunization Program will continue to receive sufficient federal *Vaccines for Children Program (VFC)* dollars to provide all ACIP-recommended vaccines for VFC-eligible children.<sup>1</sup> Eligibility status and age requirements for receiving state-supplied vaccines are listed below (Table).

This new immunization law provides limited funding for vaccines; consequently, if demand exceeds available resources, vaccine purchases will be prioritized based on public health impact, vaccine costs, and school/childcare compliance requirements. Based on current budget projections, state-supplied human papillomavirus vaccine will only be available to underinsured children at Federally Qualified Health Centers and Public Health Centers.

The Alaska Immunization Program vaccine policy for 2012 was established in the federal immunization grant submitted in August 2011. Consistent with what providers were told in October 2011,<sup>1</sup> the state is committed to providing select vaccines for insured children through 2012 (Table). However, due to further decreases in federal 317 funding to Alaska in 2013,<sup>1</sup> the Alaska Immunization Program must discontinue provision of all state-supplied vaccine to fully insured children on January 1, 2013.

### Implications for Health Care Providers

The Alaska Immunization Program is committed to working with providers to make as much state-supplied vaccine available to Alaskans as possible in an equitable fashion. In order to facilitate accurate vaccine procurement, distribution, storage, and accountability, health care providers receiving state-supplied vaccine will need to do the following:

- Follow the program requirements outlined in the *Alaska Vaccine Distribution Handbook*.<sup>2</sup>
- Follow the *Alaska Vaccine Distribution Provider Agreement Instructions* for enrollment (see Homepage *Spotlight*).<sup>3</sup>
- Order vaccines and manage inventory within VacTrAK using the Vaccine Ordering and Management System (VOMS).
- Screen every patient during each visit for vaccine eligibility status (i.e., VFC-eligible, underinsured, or fully insured) prior to administering vaccine, and maintain screening documentation for at least 3 years.<sup>2</sup> Providers only need to obtain verification from an insurance company if the patient states that they don't know their vaccine eligibility status.
- Segregate state-supplied vaccine from privately-procured vaccines during storage (segregated vaccines may be stored in the same refrigerator).
- Enter/export vaccine administration data into VacTrAK within 30 days for non-VFC state-supplied vaccines.<sup>2</sup>
- Start submitting orders for state-supplied vaccines funded by the new immunization law on July 1, 2012.
- Refer to the *Frequently Asked Questions* document available on the Alaska Immunization Program Homepage (under *Spotlight*) or call the Alaska Immunization Help Line (907-269-8088 or 888-430-4321) with questions.<sup>3</sup>
- Plan to purchase vaccines for insured children in 2013.

**Table. Eligibility Status and Age Requirements for State-Supplied Vaccines, July–December 2012<sup>2</sup>**

State-Supplied Vaccine	Age 18 years or younger			Age 19 years or older
	VFC-Eligible (i.e., Medicaid, AI/AN, Uninsured)	Underinsured	Fully Insured <sup>†</sup> (Only through Dec 31, 2012)	Underinsured or Uninsured <sup>±</sup>
DT (Diphtheria/ Tetanus)	✓	✓	✓	N/A
DTaP (Diphtheria/ Tetanus/ acellular Pertussis)	✓	✓	✓	N/A
DTaP/ Hepatitis B/ IPV (Pediatrix®)	✓	✓	✓	N/A
Hepatitis A	✓	✓	✓	N/A
Hepatitis B	✓	✓	✓	N/A
Hib ( <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b)	✓	✓	✓	N/A
HPV (Human papillomavirus)	✓	FQHC/PHC Only <sup>*</sup>	N/A	N/A
Influenza	✓	✓	N/A	✓
IPV ( Inactivated poliovirus)	✓	✓	✓	N/A
MCV4 (Meningococcal conjugate)	✓	✓	N/A	N/A
MMR (Measles/ Mumps/ Rubella)	✓	✓	✓	N/A
PCV13 (Pneumococcal conjugate)	✓	✓	N/A	N/A
PPSV23 (Pneumococcal polysaccharide)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rotavirus	✓	✓	N/A	N/A
Td (Tetanus/ Diphtheria)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tdap (Tetanus/ Diphtheria/ acellular Pertussis)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Varicella (Chickenpox)	✓	✓	✓	N/A
Zoster (Shingles)		N/A		Adults aged ≥60 yrs

VFC = Federal Vaccines for Children Program, AI/AN = American Indian/Alaska Native, N/A = Not available

\*Underinsured children are eligible to receive VFC-funded HPV vaccine at a Federally Qualified Health Center or Public Health Center.

†Fully insured children will no longer be eligible for state-supplied vaccine after December 31, 2012 (see Background section above).

±Uninsured/underinsured adults who are eligible to receive ACIP-recommended vaccines through a federal entitlement program (e.g., persons with military coverage, Medicare/Medicaid-eligible, or Indian Health Service beneficiaries), but do not live in a location where such federally-funded vaccine services are readily available may receive the state-supplied vaccines at a Public Health Center.

### References

1. Section of Epidemiology Bulletin "Further Cuts in State-Provided Vaccines for VFC-Ineligible Children in 2012." No. 28, October 19, 2011. Available at: [http://www.epi.alaska.gov/bulletins/docs/b2011\\_28.pdf](http://www.epi.alaska.gov/bulletins/docs/b2011_28.pdf)
2. *Alaska Vaccine Distribution Handbook*. Available at: <http://www.epi.alaska.gov/id/iz/vaxpacket/cert/VaccineHandbook.pdf>
3. Alaska Immunization Program Homepage. Available at: <http://www.epi.alaska.gov/id/immune.stm>