



# OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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Ted Strickland/Governor

Alvin D. Jackson, M.D./Director of Health

To: All Vaccines for Children Program Providers

From: Michèle Shipp, MD, DrPH, Assistant Director *MS*

Date: December 28, 2009

RE: HPV and PCV-7 vaccine updates

The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) is pleased to announce updates regarding two vaccines currently available through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program.

### Transition to the 13-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine

The VFC program is preparing for the pending approval and licensure of Prevnar 13® and the transition from Prevnar 7® to Prevnar 13® pneumococcal conjugate vaccine. At this time, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) anticipates that licensure may happen as early as the very end of December 2009. CDC has begun to reduce inventories of Prevnar 7® at their centralized distribution depots, in order to reduce vaccine lost when Prevnar 13® becomes available. In order to minimize vaccine loss in inventories at provider offices, CDC has requested that state VFC programs fill orders for providers with smaller amounts of Prevnar 7® at this time. This will serve to minimize waste and facilitate a seamless transition to Prevnar 13®. CDC anticipates that VFC providers may begin to order Prevnar 13® as early as the first week in February.

In preparation of this transition, ODH is limiting VFC provider orders for Prevnar 7® to a 30-day supply, effective immediately. If you need additional Prevnar 7® before the availability of Prevnar 13®, you will be permitted to place an order for another 30-day supply. ODH will provide timely updates as we learn about licensure, ACIP recommendations, and ordering.

### Licensure of Gardasil® for males

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has issued a permissive recommendation for the use of the Gardasil® Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine in males, which means that VFC providers may begin providing this vaccine to VFC-eligible males. As a result, VFC providers may begin using Gardasil® for VFC-eligible males aged 9-18 years immediately.

Thank you for your continuing participation in the Vaccine for Children program. If you have any questions, please contact your ODH Immunization Consultant directly or at (800) 282-0546 or (614) 466-4643.