Memorandum

To: Vaccine Providers

From: Robert Morrison, Vaccine Manager, Immunization Program

Lois Ciccone, VFC Coordinator, Immunization Program

Date: December 2014

Subject: MDPH Immunization Program - 2015 Enrollment

In order to continue receiving vaccines from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) Immunization Program/Vaccines for Children Program (VFC), providers are required to re-enroll on an annual basis. This year the enrollment period for both pediatric and adult providers will begin December 16, 2014 and end January 30, 2015, and all providers must re-enroll on-line using the Massachusetts Immunization Information System (MIIS).

If your site is not already registered with the MIIS, you should register now in order to complete re-enrollment through the MIIS. Attached please find a one page registration guide that shows step-by-step instructions to complete this registration. If your site is registered but you are not an authorized user of the MIIS, please contact the MIIS Helpdesk for questions at 617-983-4335 or miishelpdesk@state.ma.us.

Continued enrollment in the MDPH Immunization Program/VFC Program will enable providers to continue receiving vaccines free of charge from the state. Currently, the MDPH provides most routinely recommended childhood vaccines universally to all children and adolescents through 18 years of age regardless of insurance status. However, human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine, the second dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4), and catch-up vaccination with hepatitis A, Tdap, and varicella vaccines are only available to VFC-eligible children through 18 years of age. These vaccines are limited to children who are:

- Enrolled in Medicaid
- Without health insurance
- Native American (American Indian) or Alaskan Native
- Underinsured and seen at a federally qualified health center (FQHC)

Use of VFC vaccine for individuals that do not qualify for the VFC Program constitutes fraud and abuse and is punishable by law (Medicaid regulation: 42 CFR §455.15). Please keep your privately purchased vaccines separate from the state-supplied vaccines.
Attached you will find:

(1) One page Registration Guide for registering for the MIIS
(2) Guidelines for Compliance with Federal Vaccine Administration Requirements
(3) Vaccine Restitution Policy

If you wish to continue participating in the MDPH Immunization Program/VFC Program, you must complete the Provider Re-enrollment process on-line by **January 30, 2015**. Until the Re-enrollment Process is completed you will be unable to receive state-supplied vaccine.

Please note that the Guidelines for Compliance (Section A-6) reference the Vaccine Restitution Policy that has been in effect since January 1, 2011. This policy requires providers to provide restitution, in the form of privately-purchased replacement vaccine, for any doses of federal or state-purchased vaccines that have been lost due to the provider’s failure to properly receive, store, or handle vaccine inventory, under the following conditions: it is the 1st incident and the total loss is over $10,000; it is the 2nd incident (or greater) regardless of total value; it is due to a failure to immediately open a vaccine shipment from McKesson or Merck resulting in damaged vaccine regardless of total value; or it is due to a failure to store refrigerated vaccine in a refrigerator or store frozen vaccine in a freezer.

Please note, there are new recommendations and requirements in the Guidelines for Compliance for 2015. These include:

- When a provider completes the **MDPH/VFC Vaccine Borrowing Report Form**, the provider is required to send a copy of the completed form and a copy of the vaccine replenishment invoice to the Vaccine Management Unit.
- Beginning in 2016, MDPH will require all pediatric practices (any site that administers at least some vaccines to those <19 years of age) to have pharmaceutical grade refrigerators for the primary vaccine storage unit in their facility. Stand alone freezers that are not pharmaceutical grade will still be acceptable.
- It is recommended for all practices, and required for all pediatric practices (any site that administers at least some vaccines to those <19 years of age) to monitor the minimum and maximum temperatures daily.
- MDPH requires the use of NIST certified calibrated digital data loggers for continuous 24-hour temperature monitoring on all primary vaccine storage units at all pediatric practices (any site that administers at least some vaccines to those <19 years of age).
- Provider enrollment and vaccine orders are required to be submitted online through the MIIS for all pediatric sites.

If you have any questions about re-enrolling or other aspects of the MDPH Immunization Program/VFC Program, please contact the Vaccine Management Unit at (617) 983-6828.