Dear Colleague:

This notice provides updates on important changes to the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program.

1) Launch of new Vaccine Inventory Management (VIM) module in the Citywide Immunization Registry (CIR)
The Bureau of Immunization is releasing a new VIM module in the CIR Online Registry in June 2017. VIM will change the way VFC vaccines are ordered. New VIM features include: (1) prepopulated vaccine lot numbers to make reporting VFC vaccine inventory easier, (2) reports to help manage vaccine inventory, and (3) an enhanced module to collect thermometer and vaccine storage information. Webinars introducing VIM were held in April and May, and two additional webinars are scheduled for June. It is strongly recommended that all VFC providers attend a VIM webinar. The upcoming webinar dates/times are:
   - Thursday, June 8th from 12:00pm-1:00pm
   - Wednesday, June 21st from 3:00pm-4:00pm
To register for one of these webinars, click here.

2) Storage Unit and Thermometer Policy Update
As per Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) policy updates, as of January 1, 2018, the use of stand-alone or biologic/pharmaceutical-grade freezers and/or refrigerators will be required. These units are proven to better maintain stable, in-range temperatures and avoid vaccine spoilage compared to household storage units. The use of the refrigerator compartment of a combined household refrigerator-style unit may be allowed if it is able to demonstrate stable temperatures with a continuous digital data logger (DDL) thermometer. In instances where this applies, a separate stand-alone freezer should be used to store frozen vaccines.

Additionally, DDL thermometers with a temperature probe and active temperature displays will be required for all storage units effective January 1, 2018. The DDL must also have the capacity for continuous monitoring and recording. Once the thermometer policy goes into effect, VFC providers will be required to upload DDL temperature summary reports to the CIR Online Registry before placing VFC vaccine orders.

Please see the attached VIM Quick Guide, VIM Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document and the VFC Vaccine Storage & Thermometer Guide for further details on the new vaccine storage and thermometer policies.

Should you have questions please email nycimmunize@health.nyc.gov or call 347-396-2404.

We thank you for helping to protect NYC children from vaccine-preventable diseases.

Sincerely,

Jane R. Zucker, MD, MSc