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# Montana Immunization Program Newsletter

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## Frequently Asked Question: Catch-Up Schedules

How can we quickly determine how to "catch up" children who have fallen behind on their shots?

As a general rule, infants or children who are more than 1 month or 1 dose behind schedule should be on an accelerated schedule, which means the intervals between doses should be reduced to the minimum allowable. Catch-up schedules for children ages 4 months through 18 years are included with each year's recommended immunization schedule that is

issued by ACIP, AAP, and American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP). To obtain a copy, go to

[www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/index.html).

Questions? Contact Susan Reeser, Nurse Consultant: [sreeser@mt.gov](mailto:sreeser@mt.gov)



## VFC Corner

### Monthly VFC Hot Topics Webinars

When: Every other month

We have updated the schedule for the remaining VFC Hot Topics.

[Updated Hot Topics Schedule](#)

[Archived Presentations](#)

Month	Topic
June	<b>Bi-Annual Reports: Using this resource to improve your coverage rates</b> <a href="#">Archived Presentation</a> This was a review of how to use our bi-annual reports to

improve immunization coverage rates, improve imMTrax data, and assist with quality improvement projects.

**July**      **No Hot Topics**

**August**      **The Revised VFC Provider Handbook and New Forms**

Lori will go over changes in the revised VFC Provider Handbook and the new forms distributed in June. This is new information relevant to all VFC providers.      [Login Information](#)

**September**      **No Hot Topics**

**October**      **Annual Data Logger Basics Training**

Required for all VFC Managers and Alternates as part of the Annual Education Requirement, which must be completed before 2016 site contracts can be approved. Attend this webinar and the avoid the rush at the end of the year.

## **The Month in Review**

Just as a reminder, all VFC influenza vaccine for the 2014-2015 season expired on June 30, 2015. Please reference the e-mail that was sent on June 16, 2015 with the newly revised wasted and expired form. Please also remember that multi-dose vials cannot be returned to McKesson. They should be recorded on the wasted and expired form, but disposed of per your facility policy. For the new form, [click here](#).

VFC Influenza order forms for the coming season were distributed by email on July 27, 2015. Please return one order form per clinic with your order for the entire season on or before August 7, 2015. We will begin shipping once vaccines are available to us. If you need a copy of the Influenza Vaccine Order form, [click here](#). If you have additional questions, please call 444-1613 or e-mail [kgrady@mt.gov](mailto:kgrady@mt.gov).

## **On the Horizon**

We typically begin shipping VFC influenza vaccine for the coming season at the end of August/beginning September. Please remember that you may not get your entire order in the first shipment, rather it will come to you in multiple shipments as it becomes available to us at McKesson. Barring any supply issues, we usually have all influenza vaccine shipped to providers by December. We will keep you abreast of any issue that may disrupt this schedule.

## **Handy Stickers to Help Organize Your Vaccine**

Merck has created VFC stickers for providers who stock VFC and private vaccines. These are available on our website and can be printed any time at:

<https://www.merckvaccines.com/Professional-Resources/Pages/VFCStickerTemplates>.

Questions? Contact Lori Hutchinson and Katie Grady-Selby at [hhsiz@mt.gov](mailto:hhsiz@mt.gov).

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## Merck Using New Frozen Shipping Containers

Merck has begun using a new, smaller frozen shipping container. Despite these changes, please note the following:

1. Providers should not handle the new shipping containers differently than previous shipping containers.
2. The Merck colors and labeling on the outside of the container are not changing.
3. The diluent will continue to be stored in the top cover of the container.

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### New School Immunization Requirements Training

Trainings targeting Local Health Jurisdictions and VFC Providers on new school



immunization requirements and implementation will be offered in August. Trainings are via WebEx; login information will be sent shortly.

Monday, August 10th	10:00 am
Wednesday, August 12th	12:00 pm
Friday, August 14th	2:00 pm

Training for school personnel will also be conducted via WebEx in late September.

Both webinars will be posted to the Immunization Program website.

Questions? Contact Laura Baus,  
[lbaus@mt.gov](mailto:lbaus@mt.gov).

## **2015 Assessment, Feedback, Incentive, and eXchange (AFIX) Award Recipients**

AFIX awards, based on assessments conducted as part of the 2014 VFC/AFIX clinic reviews, were presented in April at the 2015 Immunization Regional Workshops. A list of award recipients and photos are posted at: <http://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/Immunization/AFIX/AFIX-AWARDS>.

Congratulations to all the AFIX award recipients!

**State of Montana  
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[Complete Staff Listing and Contact Information](#)