



Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH)
Division of Epidemiology and Immunization

To: Massachusetts Health Care Providers

From: Susan M. Lett, MD, MPH, Medical Director, Immunization Program

Date: July 2009

Re: **Expanded Availability of MDPH-Supplied Vaccines for ADOLESCENTS
Effective August 1, 2009***

Massachusetts has received a limited amount of increased federal and state funding for vaccines. This increased funding includes some one-time federal stimulus funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). This increased funding has 2 major effects.

First, MDPH will be able to **continue** universally providing rotavirus vaccine for all infants 6 weeks to 8 months (0 days) of age, regardless of VFC-eligibility status.

Second, MDPH is **expanding** availability of select adolescent vaccines effective August 1, 2009 as outlined in the table below.

	Existing	Newly Added
MCV4 (Meningococcal Conjugate)	Routine administration to: all adolescents at 7th grade entry (11-12 years of age).	Catch-up of all 13-18 year olds.
Tdap	Routine administration to: all adolescents at 7th grade entry (11-12 years of age).	Catch-up of all 13-18 year olds.
Varicella	Routine administration to: - all children at 12-15 months of age, - all children at kindergarten entry (4-6 year olds), and - all adolescents at 7th grade entry (11-12 years of age).	Catch-up of all 13-18 year olds. Catch-up vaccination of 1-10 year olds with varicella vaccine will only be available for VFC-eligible children.

Please note that MDPH-supplied human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine will continue to be available **only** for VFC-eligible girls 11-18 years of age.

Vaccine availability for all other antigens and populations remains the same. Please see the enclosed MDPH's *Childhood Vaccine Availability Table* (also available at <https://www.mass.gov/dph/imm>) which provides more guidance on state-supplied vaccine availability.

MDPH is notifying insurers and asking them to continue to reimburse for any privately purchased vaccine for a 6-month period.

***Please note: This expanded availability will be in effect for as long as funding permits.**

If you have any questions regarding vaccine availability, please contact the Vaccine Management Unit at 617-983-6828.