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SOUTH DAKOTA  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**Division of Health and Medical Services**  
Disease Prevention  
Family and Community Health Services  
Health Promotion  
State Epidemiologist

**Alert**

TO: All Vaccine Providers

FROM: Tim Heath

DATE: 01/13/2012

RE: 2012-2013 Influenza Season

Dear Vaccine Providers:

To allow for adequate planning for the 2012-13 Flu season, the Department of Health provides the following update regarding the status of funding for flu vaccine for children. Due to state government budget cuts, the FY12 budget did not include funding for the purchase of flu vaccine for children 6-18 years of age beginning with the 2012-13 influenza season. However, childhood immunizations remain a top priority for Governor Dugaard and the Department of Health and we have been working hard to obtain the resources to continue to provide free vaccine for all SD children.

We are pleased to let you know that the Governor's recommended budget for FY13 does include the funding necessary to continue to purchase the vaccine this spring for the 2012-13 flu season for ALL SD children. This will require legislative action and while we certainly expect continued support from the legislature for childhood immunizations, we will let you know as soon as the bill has passed.

We wanted to share this good news with you now, knowing that you will soon be making plans to purchase vaccine for the next flu season. We appreciate your past support of child flu vaccination and look forward to continuing to work with you to protect all SD children from the flu.