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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

MEMORANDUM 2014-01

TO: All Vaccine Providers

FROM: Tim Heath

DATE: May 14, 2014

RE: Vaccine Inventory & Transition to VFC Only Status

In August of 2012, the Department of Health convened an immunization workgroup in response to significant changes in how states could use their federal vaccine funding. States could no longer use Section 317 federal vaccine funds to vaccinate fully insured individuals.

The Immunization Workgroup proposed a “safety net” concept to assure we were not missing any opportunities to immunize our children. In addition, Governor Daugaard and the Legislature supported allocating funds for the safety net. The safety net has provided funding during this time of transition for children who are not VFC eligible or who are still on grandfathered insurance plans that do not cover immunizations.

Our original projections indicated South Dakota would need to make the transition to supplying vaccine only for children eligible for the federal VFC program on July 1, 2014. **However, our current inventory of state-funded vaccine is sufficient to allow the Immunization Program to delay that change until January 1, 2015. The current vaccine eligibility chart will remain in place through December 31, 2014.**

Beginning on January 1, 2015 the state’s vaccine program will be converting to only supplying vaccine for children eligible for the federal Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. We will be providing more information in the near future but we wanted to give you plenty of time to prepare for this change.

Additionally, the state will still be supplying influenza vaccine for all children for the 2014-15 flu season.

Thank you to each of our providers for your part in continuing to improve South Dakota's childhood immunization rates. Please continue to submit your statements to the Department of Health for the safety net vaccines so we can replace those vaccines you have provided for children who qualify.

Please let me know if you have any questions. You may call me at 605-773-5323 or email me at tim.heath@state.sd.us.