



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 ADULTS Seen in Public Sector Settings: Effective August 1, 2009***

1. Public Provider Sites

Massachusetts has received a limited amount of increased federal and state funding for vaccines that is allowing us to increase availability of MDPH-supplied vaccines for adults seen in public sector settings. This increased funding includes some one-time federal stimulus funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

As a result, MDPH is pleased to be able to **expand** availability of vaccines for Massachusetts adults 19 years of age and older who are seen in public settings.

The following vaccines will continue to be available from MDPH at **all** public provider sites for adults:

- Hepatitis A
- Hepatitis B
- Pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPV23)
- Measles, mumps, rubella vaccine (MMR)
- Varicella
- Polio
- Tdap
- Seasonal Influenza

The following MDPH-supplied vaccines for adults will also be made available at select public provider sites:

Vaccine	Sites
Twinrix (combines hepatitis A and B vaccine)	correctional facilities, Integrated Counseling & Testing Sites, TB clinics, and selected community health centers
HPV (human papillomavirus vaccine)	local health departments, community health centers, free community-based clinics, family planning clinics, and women's correctional facilities
Zoster (Shingles) vaccine	community health centers, free community-based clinics, and local health departments

In order to further maximize the state's inventory, MDPH is asking public providers to:

- **prioritize** MDPH-provided vaccines for those patients at highest risk and who are without any health insurance, and
- **purchase** and **bill** for as many doses of vaccines for adults as possible.

2. Private Provider Sites

Since October 2008, MDPH has no longer supplied vaccines for adult patients in private provider settings. The exception is tetanus-diphtheria (Td) vaccine, which MDPH continues to provide for all Massachusetts residents, regardless of where they receive care.

Enclosed you will find a revised version of MDPH's *Adult Vaccine Availability Table* (also available at <https://www.mass.gov/dph/imm>) which provides more guidance on vaccines available by provider type, defines which sites are identified as 'public sector' and outlines in more detail the populations eligible for vaccine.

MDPH is notifying insurers and asking them to continue to reimburse for privately purchased vaccines for adults.

***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.