



## Immunization Program Update

Please distribute to each Physician, NP, PA and Vaccine Coordinator in your office

**Subject: New Law Limits Amount of Thimerosal In Vaccine For Children Under Three and Pregnant Women**

To: Family Practice, Internists, OB/GYN, Pediatrics, Pharmacists, PA's, ARNP and VFC  
Vaccine Coordinators

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Effective July 1, 2007, Washington State law (RCW 70.95M.115 which can be found at <http://search.leg.wa.gov/pub/textsearch/>) limits the amount of thimerosal contained in vaccines administered to children under 3 years and pregnant women. The new law allows no thimerosal or only trace levels.

### Current State-supplied vaccine (Vaccines for Children – VFC) information:

- All State-supplied vaccine for children less than 3 years is preservative free.
- Preservative-free influenza vaccine for pregnant adolescents less than 19 years is available.

### Guidance for Purchasing Preservative-free Influenza Vaccine:

- Fluzone preservative free (Sanofi Pasteur) 0.25ml pediatric prefilled syringes meets the new law's thimerosal limit and is currently licensed for use in children 6-35 months:
- Providers should estimate the number of pregnant women 19 years and older they expect to vaccinate with influenza during the 2007-2008 influenza season and pre-book influenza vaccine. The following meet the new law's thimerosal limit and may be administered to pregnant women:
  - Fluvirin preservative free (Novartis) 0.5ml prefilled syringes
  - Fluarix (GSK) 0.5ml prefilled syringes
  - Fluzone no preservative (Sanofi Pasteur) 0.5ml single dose vials
  - Fluzone no preservative (Sanofi Pasteur) 0.5ml prefilled syringes

### Importance of Flu Shots During Pregnancy:

- Women at any stage of pregnancy during the flu season should receive inactivated influenza vaccine because they are at increased risk for influenza-related complications that require hospitalization. In addition, vaccination of the mother may provide protection to the newborn infant.

### Resources:

For additional information contact the Whatcom County Health Department at 676-4593.

To learn more about preventing flu, visit the CDC website at [www.cdc.gov/flu](http://www.cdc.gov/flu)