TO: Regional Directors, Public Health Regions  
Regional Immunization Program Managers, Health Service Regions  
Directors, Local Health Departments  
Immunization Managers, Local Health Departments

FROM: Karen Hess, Manager  
Vaccine Services Group

THRU: Jack C. Sims, Manager  
Immunization Branch

DATE: November 21, 2011

SUBJECT: Texas Vaccines for Children (TVFC) Program: Temporary Change to Adult Safety Net Policy on MCV4 Vaccine

Memo Distribution: This memo is intended for Local Health Departments, Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Health Service Regions, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) and Family Planning Clinics only; please do not disseminate to other private providers.

On January 1, 2012, new state meningitis vaccine requirements go into effect that require certain entering college students to present proof of receiving a Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine (MCV4) within the past five years. In an effort to support the demand for this vaccine by adult students over the next two months, DSHS is implementing a temporary change in the Adult Safety Net (ASN) policy for the MCV4 vaccine only. Effective now through January 31, 2012, any student presenting at an ASN clinic for a MCV4 vaccine may receive the vaccine through the ASN program.

DSHS will be ordering additional vaccine to meet the demand in the coming weeks. MCV4 orders should be placed as usual using the Electronic Vaccine Inventory (EVI) system. Orders will be shipped as vaccine becomes available.

The amended eligibility for MCV4 through January 31, 2012 is as follows:

**Meningococcal Vaccine (MCV)**
Uninsured and underinsured adults 19-55 years who are at risk. The following groups are considered at risk:
1. Medical indications: adults with anatomic or functional asplenia or terminal complement component deficiencies.
2. Revaccination after 5 years might be indicated for adults previously vaccinated with MPSV4 who remain at high risk for infection.
3. Uninsured and underinsured persons who travel to or live in countries in which meningococcal disease is hyperendemic or epidemic.
4. Other: any college student regardless of insurance status presenting at an Adult Safety Net site.

Efforts are ongoing to educate college staff and students that insurance widely covers this vaccine, and that the first source for the vaccine should be the medical home. Community vaccinators and university health centers may also supply the vaccine. For links to the legislation, rules, and other guidelines visit the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board website at: http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/index.cfm?objectid=A641CD0D-E56A-A36A-1BCB39FF80781178

At this time, there are no other changes to the Adult Vaccine Safety Net Program. However, we are currently examining options of how best to serve clients and contractors based on a decrease in funding that has historically supported the ASN program. Any additional changes will be communicated via official memoranda from DSHS. If you have questions regarding this information, please contact your health service region or TVFC consultant.