Memorandum

TO: Directors, Health Service Regions
   Immunization Program Managers, Health Service Regions
   Directors, Local Health Departments
   Immunization Program Managers, Local Health Departments
   Texas Vaccines for Children (TVFC) Providers

FROM: Karen Hess, Manager
       Vaccine Services Group

THRU: Jack C. Sims, Manager
       Immunization Branch

DATE: October 11, 2010

SUBJECT: Texas Vaccines for Children Program: Measles/Mumps/Rubella/Varicella (MMRV) Vaccine Shipping Change

Regional and local health departments should share the following message with all clinics enrolled in the Texas Vaccines for Children (TVFC) program.

Merck, the manufacturer of ProQuad®, the Measles/Mumps/Rubella/Varicella (MMRV) vaccine, has determined that exposing this vaccine to temperatures lower than -58°F (−50°C) could affect vaccine potency. Previously MMRV was shipped on dry ice, however the use of dry ice may subject the product to temperatures colder than -58°F (−50°C). The vaccine is now shipped using six refrigerant packs. Once received, providers must store the vaccine in the freezer at temperatures between −58°F and +5°F (−50°C to −15°C). There are no changes at this time for MMR or varicella vaccines.

Attached is a flier from Merck explaining new packaging and shipping guidelines for ProQuad. If you have any questions, call 1-877-VAX-MERCK (1-877-829-6372) to speak with a Merck Vaccine Account Specialist, or contact your local health department or health service region representative.

Attachment
Introducing a new package for ProQuad

Place product in freezer immediately upon opening this package, as directed.

- Shipping capacity of 80 doses per container.
- Invoice and packing slip are separate from product, keeping them secure and dry.
- Diluent is conveniently located in the top layer of the box.
- Bubble bag provides added protection for the product.
- 6 refrigerant packs protect product on all sides to keep it stable and cool.
  - Replaces the use of dry ice during shipment.
  - To maintain potency, the product must be stored frozen between -58°F and +5°F (-50°C to -15°C)
  - Do not store on dry ice. Use of dry ice may subject product to temperature colder than -58°F (-50°C).

If you have any questions, call 1-877-VAX-MERCK (1-877-829-6372) to speak with a Vaccine Account Specialist.