



EL DORADO COUNTY
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY *Public Health Division*

Daniel Nielson, M.P.A.
Director

Robert Hartmann, MD
Public Health Officer

September 24, 2012

Dear Provider:

Historically, Local Health Departments have had capacity to immunize all children with Vaccines for Children (VFC) and federally provided Section 317 vaccine. These programs have given local public health the ability to raise immunization rates, demonstrate competency in this area of practice, and reduce many barriers to vaccination for El Dorado County residents.

Beginning October 1, 2012, Section 317 vaccine may not be used for routine immunization of fully insured individuals. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) defines fully insured as, *"Anyone with insurance that covers the cost of vaccine, even if the insurance includes a high deductible or co-pay or if a claim for the cost of the vaccine and administration would be denied for payment by the insurance carrier because the plan's deductible had not been met"*. This change in Federal policy which specifies that Section 317 vaccines should not be used for routine vaccination of fully insured children, adolescents and adults, affects both the public and private sector care providers. In order to assure that 317 vaccines remain available for those who truly have no other access option, all fully insured children and adults should be immunized through their medical home with non-Federally subsidized vaccines reimbursed through the insurance carrier.

Starting October 1, 2012, El Dorado County Public Health will no longer be able to provide routine immunization to your clients who are fully insured. Medical practices that have been referring fully insured clients to public health clinics for routine vaccination will need to consider how to meet the immunization needs of those individuals. I understand that this will impact your medical practice and that you may need a few months to develop capacity to serve your clients in this manner.

Please be advised that El Dorado County Public Health will continue to serve children and adolescents who are Medi-Cal eligible, not insured or underinsured (no vaccination coverage). Limited adult vaccines such as Tdap and MMR will still be available through our immunization program for adults without insurance. County sponsored Influenza immunization clinics will continue to serve any individual, regardless of insurance status.

The Section 317 Immunization Program has contributed to one of the most successful public health interventions in history. It is essential that we collectively provide good stewardship of this precious national resource by ensuring Section 317 vaccine is directed to those most at need. I understand that this transition will create challenges and may impede continuity of care however, through thoughtful consideration and partnership El Dorado County Public Health will work with you to find solutions.

For more information or, for assistance in capacity and design planning or staff training, contact Lynnan Svensson, Supervising Public Health Nurse, at (530) 621-6185. Additional resources can be found at www.EZIZ.org

Strengthening, Empowering and Protecting the Residents of El Dorado County

931 Spring Street ❖ Placerville, CA 95667 ❖ (530) 642-7300 ❖ FAX (530) 626-4713
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Thank you for your continued partnership and care for El Dorado County residents.

Sincerely,

Robert Hartmann, M.D.

Robert Hartmann, M.D.
El Dorado County Public Health Officer