# Influenza and Pneumococcal Vaccinations

## Policy & Procedures

### Prevent Division

### Maternal Child Program

## Purpose

MCDOH MCH nursing staff may administer influenza (flu) vaccines and pneumococcal (PPV-23) vaccines to prenatal and postpartum clients in Madison County in their home, as a courtesy of the MCH program. It is recommended that children of client and spouse/significant other attend MCDOH immunization and flu clinics for their vaccine.

## Date Adopted

February 2001

## Revised

November 2011/annually

## Policy

### Flu:

Every year, the seasonal flu vaccine covers three (3) strains of flu. They include 2 influenza A strains and 1 Influenza B strain. Multi-dose vials contain Thimerosal. Single dose vials of flu vaccine may be available for children under 18 and pregnant women (contact the DCHS for yearly updated availability). The Centers for Disease Control recommend annual influenza vaccination for all persons over age 6 months.

### Pneumococcal:

Pneumococcal vaccine (PPV-23) provides immunity from 23 serotypes that cause 88% of the pneumococcal bacteremic disease. PPV-23 is used in adults 65 years and older and persons over age 2 years with any chronic illness, such as HIV, asplenia, and immunocompromised illnesses, such as cancer. It is usually given one time before age 65 years and 1 time after age 65 (with at least a 5-year lapse between). PPV-23 is not recommended in pregnancy.

## Procedure

1. Referral received, either by telephone or a faxed script from the client’s physician’s office for MCDOH MCH to administer, either the flu vaccine or pneumococcal vaccine or both, at the patient’s home. For current clients, there must be a verbal order documented on the 487 form. The form will include the dosage, route, 1X dose and the emergency use of Epinephrine for anaphylaxis if needed. This will be sent and must return within 30 days with signature of the ordering provider.

2. The MCDOH Influenza/Pneumococcal Immunization Consent Form contains demographics, the HIPPA consent, and release of information to NYSIIS (New York State Immunization Information System) consent.

3. The flu vaccine is located in the refrigerator in the Clinic Room. Single dose vials/syringes are labeled for use with pregnant women. VFC vaccine is labeled for use in children/teens under age 18 years.
4. Each vial of flu vaccine contains 10 doses per vial. Once opened, the vial is to be dated with the date of first use and the RN initials. Pneumococcal vaccine is a single dose vial with 10 per box.

5. The flu and/or pneumococcal vaccine vial is to be protected with bubble wrap (found in the clinic room under the sink) and then placed in a ziploc bag. Additional supplies include red biohazard containers, red hazardous waste bags and other supplies necessary for vaccination, not limited to alcohol wipes and band aids. The emergency prophylaxis kit must also be available with the clinical staff providing the vaccination.

6. The vial then will be placed in a thermal bag with a freezer pack (located in the small freezer in the clinic room). The vial cannot be in direct contact with the freezer pack as it could freeze the vaccine (see storage and handling information on correct handling temperatures).

7. The multi-dose flu vaccine vial needs to be used and kept in the original box. The vial is to be labeled with the first date vial opened. Pre-filled syringes/vials are to be used for patients under 18 and pregnant women (these are Thimerosal-free). This vial is to be maintained in the proper temperature for a home visit and returned to the office (see immunization policy and procedures for proper storage and handling).

8. At the home visit, the client will be asked the screening questions, will be screened for precautions and contraindications before administering the seasonal flu or pneumococcal vaccine, and will sign the consent. Pneumococcal vaccine can be given at any time throughout the year.

9. The RN Case Manager is to always have epinephrine and syringe available at the time of the vaccine.

10. For the flu vaccine and pneumococcal vaccine, a dose of 0.5ml is to be drawn up into a 22-25g, 1” syringe. It is administered intramuscularly in the right or left deltoid muscle.

11. If the patient is receiving the flu vaccine or pneumococcal vaccine for the first time, the RN Case Manager will monitor the patient for 10-15 minutes after the injection for signs of an adverse reaction.

12. The RN Case Manager will fill out the bottom of the Influenza/Pneumococcal Immunization Consent Form and give the yellow copy to the patient for their records. It is the patient’s responsibility to notify their PCP that they have received the vaccination(s).
13. Family members and/or caregivers cannot receive the vaccination(s) unless they have a **prescription from their PCP and are homebound**. It is recommended that children of clients and spouse/significant others attend MCDOH immunization and flu clinics for their vaccine.

14. Once the RN Case Manager returns to the office, the paperwork will be placed in the Director of Community Health Services’ mailbox.

15. See policy for hazardous waste disposal for empty vials, syringes and other items used during vaccination. Multi-dose vials are to be returned to the proper area in the refrigerator for maintenance of proper storage of vaccine.