



Robert Moser, MD, Secretary

Department of Health & Environment

Sam Brownback, Governor

DATE: August 14, 2012

TO: Kansas VFC Providers
Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved (KAMU)
Kansas Association of Local Health Departments (KALHD)
Kansas Office of Local Public Health
Kansas Primary Care Office

cc: Robert Moser, M.D., Secretary
Brenda Walker, Director, Bureau of Disease Control and Prevention

FROM: Ryan Burns, Kansas Immunization Program Director

RE: Deputization of Local Health Departments to serve Underinsured Children

The Kansas Immunization Program (KIP) has been informed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that, effective December 31, 2012, only Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) or Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) will be permitted to immunize underinsured children under the VFC program unless an FQHC or an RHC has deputized the provider.

As you may recall, in 2004, Kansas FQHCs and RHCs "delegated" local health departments (LHDs) to immunize underinsured children. In order for a local health department (LHD) to continue to be able to provide vaccines to underinsured children, the LHD must execute a memorandum of understanding with an FQHC or an RHC, and become deputized. The Kansas Immunization Program has been asked by the CDC to assist FQHCs, RHCs and LHDs in this process so that access to immunization services for underinsured children is not adversely impacted.

KIP must notify the CDC by October 1, 2012, of those LHDs that are proposed for deputization. KIP recommends that all LHDs be deputized. There are seventy-eight FQHCs and RHCs enrolled in the VFC program in Kansas. There are approximately 100,000 underinsured children who could need immunizations. Only established patients in the FQHC or RHC are able to access services in these clinics. Deputizing LHDs will help assure the children who are not established patients will have access to immunizations, are protected from vaccine-preventable disease and not exposing others to disease.

KIP has developed a Q&A Fact Sheet which provides background information from the CDC about deputization and why it needs to occur. KIP will be scheduling webinars September 4 and 5, 2012, which will provide for representatives of FQHCs, RHCs and LHDs to get more information and discuss any concerns. The Q&A Fact Sheet is attached for you convenience.

Also attached is a template of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that will be submitted to the CDC for approval prior to its use for Kansas providers. The MOU will be discussed on our calls and is not to be executed until it has received CDC approval.

KIP appreciates the service each of you provides to Kansas underinsured children. It is our sincere hope you will give serious consideration to continuing your support of access to care for underinsured children by participating in this important program of deputizing LHDs.

Please contact Martha Froetschner, RN, Assistant Program Director, with questions. She may be reached at: mfroetschner@kdheks.gov or: 785-925-1990.

Thank you.

Attachments